

METRO

VOL. 12 NO. 3

home & Entertaining

**JIM AND
LYDIA
PAREDES**
At Home with
Music and Art

**LEARN FROM
THE PROS**
Big league
architects,
designers and
fastemakers

**ICONS OF
PHILIPPINE
DESIGN**

Pablo Antonio
Josephine
Labrador Hermano
Johnny Hubilla
Francisco Mañosa
Jorge Ramos

THE DESIGN ISSUE

**48 PAGES OF BEAUTIFUL HOMES
THAT SPELL OUT STYLE**

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PHOTOGRAPH BY
Paul del Rosario

Metro Home and Entertaining
is available online at zinio.com.

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The Visionaries and Stalwarts of Local Design

DESIGN IS INTEGRAL to everything and anything. And integrity in design surpasses fashion, culture and personal taste. Though we all have our personal preferences, a good design emanates a solid appeal that most of us can intuitively sense and respond to. Modern models that rely on good design, e.g., anything Apple churns out, Ikea, or a major airport, are not only aesthetic pleasures but add to the efficiency and quality of daily life. And once there is a union of design and a deep personal conviction, thus is true style born. There can be no great style without great design.

Of course, great design spans the spectrum, and so in this design issue, we present the visionaries and stalwarts of local design, who may have divergent points of view, but are each brilliant in their own way. Be they mentors, mavericks, inventors or innovators, they have shaped our architectural and design scene to pave the way for the future generations.

Just as in history, science, art and literature, in truth, all the fields of human striving, the collective is enriched by the efforts of the individual, just as each individual artist is shaped and molded by the times. Enjoy and be inspired by the men and women who have shared their creativity and persistence in establishing the design professions in the Philippines. We know that we have been moved by their stories, and are honored and pleased to share them with you, our dear readers.



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METRO home

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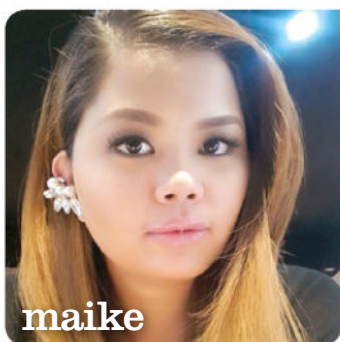
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paola

Cal Tavera

As Project Director of C+C Designs, Cal and her partner have been designing homes and restaurants for the past seven years. Last year, the partners placed second in a reality interior design show on Lifestyle Channel. She is also a regular contributor for **Metro Home** magazine. For this issue, an admirable quality common to the two icons Cal interviewed - Designer Len Cabili of Filip+Inna ("Homage to Home," p. 104) and Lifestyle Consultant Tanya Fricke Lichauco ("Authentic Design," p. 94) - was their emphasis on authenticity. In terms of design, they both attributed their own individuality as the foundation of their careers.

Muriel Vega-Perez

Muriel is an internationally accredited makeup artist, a makeup mentor at Style and Design Academy Manila and a traveler. In this issue, he did the makeup of Mia de Lara and Kitty Bunag of Craftsmith Living ("The Everyday Ordinary" p. 106).

Jonalyn Estrella

Before her stint as **Metro Home's** summer intern, Lyn's first job was as a writer and researcher for a San Francisco-based cocktail blog. Her internship with **Metro Home and Entertaining** allowed her to get out of her comfort zone. In this issue, she covered Abigail Montana's love-turned-business venture ("Furry Meets Artsy" p. 37), tips on plants and potting ("Garden Reboot" p. 138) and a contemporary organic restaurant ("Green Diet" p. 142)

Ocs Alvarez

Ocs is a Filipino commercial lifestyle photographer who has been shooting profession-

ally for 26 years now. His first clients were his friends, who like the way he processed black and whites. Ocs also founded ACME Visual Productions, a family-owned photography/video production house, where he directs videos. He loves running and likes Seafood Pho. On his days off, he does woodworking and makes installation art. For this issue, he photographed the DIY art ("Abstract Wall Art" p. 22) and artist Danilo Arriola ("Art Against All Odds" p. 32).

Maike Sogueco

Maike is a budding makeup artist who is eager to take her craft to higher levels and is always looking for imaginative ways to outdo herself. As someone who has loved the infinite possibilities of makeup from an early age, she believes that makeup is not meant to hide or concoct a different image of a person but rather complement and enhance the beauty that is already there to begin with. In this issue, she had the honor to do Icon Opat Hermano's makeup and hair ("The Original" p. 120).

Paola Aseron

Although Paola finished a degree in Music, she discovered that there's more adventure behind the lens than in playing the keys. She eventually started shooting portraits and traded music rehearsals for more time in the darkroom. Today, she has expanded her expertise to interior and food photography. Awed by the talent of Filipino architects and interior designers, Paola's always in high spirits when documenting and experiencing their creations in homes and spaces. When not shooting, her 4 hyperactive dogs and husband keep this photographer's life busy and interesting. In this issue, she photographed Architect Raffy Palma ("Raw Talent" p. 90).

Print Perfect

KEEP YOUR INTERIORS INTERESTING BY ADDING A DASH OF THE UNUSUAL WITH BEAUTIFULLY HAUNTING LINE ART PRINTS

BY BARBIE PARDO TIANGCO

FORNASETTI FANS are all familiar with the inexpressive face of opera singer Lina Cavalieri. Hers is the face that adorns Piero Fornasetti's eclectic and whimsical masterpieces often dubbed as "practical madness" that have served as inspiration to many other artists and interior designers. The use of black and white prints are often dramatic and lend itself seamlessly to many spaces on wallpaper, wall art, furniture and home accessories. They are easy to use and blend in almost any room and instantly update it.



FROM LEFT: Villages people jar, P6,000. Display of 8 collars, P25,000. Roman faces jar, P6,000. Julia low back outdoor chair, P18,000. All from Kish.

LEFT: White Cambodia king stool, P22,500, Kish. Schema lamp, P10,450, Heima. Diamond box (set of 3), P6,500. ON THE SOFA: Pillow with elephant print, P1,595, Sifra. Pillow with parachute print, Lane Crawford. Fornasetti plates from the collection of Richard Raymundo. They may be bought online at www.shopstyle.com.





CLOCKWISE: Red telephone, P4,900. Clock, P950, both from Sifra. Kape Maria, P295. Notebooks, P270, both from Heima. UNDER: Buford and Agnes placemat, P2,000. Blooms placemat, P2,000. Blackberry harvest table runner, P2,000. All from Kish. BELOW: Village people jar, P25,000. Black Cambodia King stool, P24,500, both from Kish.

Designer Shortlist

WHAT'S NEW IN
THE DESIGN REALM

THE BOFFI STUDIO

The new Boffi Studio in Manila features some of the brand's most iconic and successful lines, including the simple and warm Aprile kitchen and the industrial looking Xila; the space smart K14 and K20; the subtle and graceful Sabbia bathtub and the high-impact Pipe shower; the Anthea partition systems and the St. Germain walk-in closet. The Boffi showroom is located at the Ground Floor, San Lorenzo Tower, The Residences at Greenbelt, Esperanza St., Makati City. *Boffi is exclusively distributed locally by Focus Global Inc., the Philippine specialist in premium home furnishings*



SPACE-SAVING MODERN FURNITURE

ErgoHome shows how you can easily expand your space with just the right furniture. A storage unit with recessed panels can be pulled out to reveal a work station. Using ottomans, which open up for additional storage, children can easily work and play in this room. The sofa has a built-in coffee table that can be pulled out to entertain guests. The same sofa can also be used as a bed. *ErgoHome offers free delivery and installation of your furnishings. Visit its showrooms at SM Mall of Asia (+632)831-4110, SM Megamall, Cebu and Davao and soon, SM Aura.*



A STAY AT THE AMÉLIE

Amélie Hotel Manila enjoys a great location in the bohemian district of Malate, Manila. After taking in the sights and experiences of the city, settling down for the night at Amélie Hotel is its own reward. Deluxe and Executive rooms reflect a modern minimalist style and the handiwork of interior stylist Anton Barretto. The hotel's official food and beverage concessionaire is Galleon by Mario's Kitchen, serving Filipino and international cuisine. *Amélie Hotel Manila is located at 1667 J. Bocobo Street, Malate, Manila. For more information, call tel. (632) 875-7888, email inquiry@ameliehotelmanila.com or visit www.ameliehotelmanila.com.*

NEW GENERATION CHIMNEY HOODS

ELBA's new generation lineup of Island Mounted Chimney Hoods houses a class-leading extraction motor to eliminate unwanted smoke and foul odors from your kitchen. It also features easy-to-clean aluminum cassette filters to trap excess oil and grease. Located on all corners are four bright and efficient LED lights to aid in overall visibility and ambiance. *Available in all leading appliance stores nationwide and ELBA outlets in MC Home Depot Ortigas cor. Meralco Ave., tel. no. +63 2 683 0101, and MC Home Depot Bonifacio Global City, tel. no. +63 2 511 7885.*



SLOW SQUEEZING TECHNOLOGY

The second generation Hurom Slow Juicers are able to preserve the essential nutrients and natural taste of the vegetables and fruits by slowly squeezing and pressing them through its advanced Slow Squeezing Technology instead of grinding them to a pulp. Users can now choose to juice ingredients with more or less pulp depending on their preference. *Visit the Hurom showroom at 901 Edsa, Philam Homes Quezon City; call tel. no. (02) 404-1398 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/HuromPhilippines>; Instagram: @huromph*

LIGHTING SCULPTURES

Noteworthy among Steltz's well-curated line of exclusive lighting products are Van Egmond's Hollywood and Flos' Tatou. The Hollywood's base material is fashioned from steel in nickel finish, but can be customized in gold or aged copper finish. Tatou, the French word for armadillo, recreates the animal's hide into a lattice-like 'shell' that protects the eyes from direct light while the perforated sections produce a symphony of soft lights and shadows. *Visit Steltz, The Gallery, at the 6th floor, East Wing, EDSA Shangri-La Plaza, or their website: www.steltzinternational.com, or call 642-1421, 470-1617.*



Modern Modular

TRIED AND TESTED
FUNCTIONAL FURNITURE
PIECES FROM CALLIGARIS



MATCH DESK

A desk with a distinct personality, owing to its contrasting colors and finishes, Gino Carollo's Match desk may very well be the dose of character needed to liven up a room. It is driven by form, featuring slightly curved legs, rounded corners and chamfered edges.



LAM

Designed by Busetti Garuti Redaelli, The LAM table is made of the sensuous combination of two basic construction materials: wood and metal. The latter was folded, welded and bent, while the former provides a warm quality to the finished piece. The marriage of wood and metal in this piece enhances each material's specific qualities.

MODULAR SOFA METRO

In fabric and leather options, the Metro's timeless elegance lends itself harmoniously to most environments, from the classic to the severely modern. A piping detail by Bernhardt and Vella adds that extra touch of luxe. Also available in various configurations and pieces, this gives the freedom for various spacial possibilities.



MODULAR SOFA SQUARE

Bernhardt and Vella's modular sofa boasts of geometric lines that make it the perfect piece for contemporary interiors. Many configurations abound with its components, from armchairs to poufs.

Bolder Than Ever

KOHLER BRINGS A MODERN AND FUNCTIONAL EDGE TO 21ST CENTURY KITCHEN AND BATHROOM PRODUCTS



BRISTOL

Rich and distinguished, the Bristol kitchen is hewn from carefully selected North American cherry trees. The result is a kitchen for the ages inspired by the finest traditions of American craftsmanship and design.



GEOG

The Geog large/medium kitchen sink features a sleek, flat-rim design with straight side walls, solid 1.2mm stainless steel construction for exceptional durability and a spacious basin area for dish rack. The exclusive SilentShield sound-absorption technology sharply decreases disposal noise and vibration from dishes and running water for quiet performance.



PURIST

The Purist kitchen sink combines modern style and easy-to-use features. Quickflow technology allows the strainer, with filter basket, to drain off water easily. SilentShield technology reduces noise and prevents condensation. The 50mm anti-bacterial trapway allows consumer to use water safely and hygienically. At least 1mm thickness of stainless steel sink (made with 304 steel sheets) ensures quality and durability. Purist collection adds a touch of elegance to a contemporary design.



NUMI +

The NumiPlus toilet marks a new standard of excellence in the bathroom. Its new and improved features include a seamless remote control and music feed from your smart phone, ambient lighting in rainbow colors to suit your mood, and additional battery supply that ensures flushing in case of power failure.

MOXIE

The Moxie showerhead is the first of its kind to combine the delivery of water and music. And with the proximity of the Bluetooth-enabled wireless speaker, bathers are simultaneously showered with music and a best-in-class spray experience. The integrated wireless speaker is both rechargeable and removable.



Southern Hospitality

FOOD NETWORK STAR
PAULA DEEN LAUNCHES
A LINE OF FURNITURE



PAULA DEEN, the woman who has built up a case for the hearty use of more butter in the health-conscious twenty-first century has her own furniture line. Familiar to most as the Food TV star who advocates nostalgic Southern American home cooking, her demeanor is fuzz-free, easy, casual and unpretentious.

"As I travel around the country, y'all, visiting relatives and fans, you know, I learn a lot about their lives, and I really think that they're a lot like me. I think of home as a retreat, as a place to unwind and relax and we take great comfort in the people and the things that we cherish most. I've created Paula Deen Home for the people who enjoy home and everything that comes with it. I hope that my furniture brings you comfort and I really think it does," Deen says.

Her lines, Paula Deen Home, River House Collection and Down Home Collection, all come

in that signature all-American aesthetic. Finished with rustic elegance, but updated with compartments and practicalities that suit the modern homemaker, they easily mix with a family's heirlooms, while still affording all the modern conveniences.

Cutlery trays for drawers, cable compartments for night stands or the ability to transform, as with a certain coffee table that turns into a desk, are just some of the contemporary tweaks afforded by this brand.

Championing the famous Southern Hospitality, Deen's furniture line is perfect for those who invite company into a lived-in home that speaks of what they truly love. **-AMR**

The Paula Deen Collection by Universal Furniture is available in the Philippines at MAV Furniture Gallery, G/F 926 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati; Designmix Building, 54 Connecticut Street, North East Greenhills, San Juan, MM, 0917.628.3725. info@mav.ph.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF MAV FURNITURE

Color Trend Report

ENTER AN EXCITING
WORLD OF COLORS TO
UPDATE YOUR SPACE



From Boysen, four color personalities that help define space through character. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Kinetic, The Avant-Garde, The Perfectionist and The Naturist ranges.



THE YEAR IS HALFWAY THROUGH, but it isn't too late to get your hands on the latest paints from Boysen. For 2015, the brand has introduced four color personalities to help define the character you want your room to exude. The four color personalities are:

Naturist. This collection may be summarized as deep, dewy and earthy. Deep earth tones, the softness of dew, lush forest greens, the warmth of wood—these are the perfect backdrop for the rich, vibrant outburst of color from tropical flowers. This is Nature close to the equator—sunny, uplifting, approachable and drenched in light. The colors contrast but don't clash. Here, there is harmony where the world outside is brought inside, giving you that grounded feeling of being at the center of life and, at the same time, being right at home.

Kinetic. Energetic, exciting, excited—this series personifies the energy of motion balanced by cool grays and sophisticated blues. There is nothing timid about this palette. On the

contrary, it is about excitement, passion, an unequivocal statement of meeting life head-on. If you are a Type A personality, someone who vibrates at a faster level, a lover of the contemporary, then the complex, worldly Kinetic is for you.

Avant-Garde. This collection encourages you to take risks, breach boundaries, go to the edge and leap. Bold, unconventional and supremely individualistic, you don't need the color wheel as your compass because your choices and your combinations are as instinctive as breathing. Any direction you take pulsates with the certainty and confidence of a true trailblazer.

Perfectionist. The Perfectionist color series is simple, subtle and sophisticated. A lesson in tone is what this series is all about. The subtlety of this scheme creates a wonderfully soothing combination that is unusual and witty. The colors may be subdued but they are also very self-assured. Not for amateurs, this seemingly simple palette will reveal its profundity with time. ■



European Eclectic

DESIGN STYLES OF YORE
REFERENCED BY MOSS MANILA

BY REDILYN DIMAANDAL
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



THE DRAMATIC HIGH CEILINGS, sensual open space and glamorous gallery entrance set the mood for eclectic appeal. Such is the handiwork of Moss Manila Home, a design firm headed by sisters Cyndi and Happy Fernandez that started in 2008.

Back then, they did residential, commercial and event interiors. They were drawn to the European eclectic style, which they thought was lacking in the market at that time. They decided to create a boutique to fill this need, with a fresh and modern take on European eclectic art deco style. For their signature style, the sisters incorporate a mixture of elements



This design firm is well known in the events industry and corporate world for executing exceptional and upscale events. It is evident that Moss Manila's style always goes for the use of natural materials employed to exude drama and character.

from previous historical styles to create something new and fresh.

Moss Manila's Cyndi Fernandez is a premiere designer who specializes in events in the world of art, business and entertainment. Happy Fernandez, currently based in the United States, also designs decorative fabrics, throw pillows and linens. Her signature patterns are copyrighted works registered in the U.S. Library of Congress. ■



Functional Furniture

JESSE'S PIECES ARE NOT JUST FOR SHOW—THEY'RE TIMELESS AND FIT YOUR LIFESTYLE

BY MAAN D'ASIS PAMARAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO



LEFT: Architect Stephen Tan and Interior Designer Malou Tan, owners of Bontempi and Jesse Closets. RIGHT AND BELOW: Simple lines for a clean and sophisticated look inform their aesthetics.



“YOU DON’T WEAR a tuxedo every day. In the same way, you don’t want your furniture to be just for show,” says Architect Stephen Tan. This is the philosophy espoused by Jesse, his furniture store that carries Italian brands Miniforms and Bontempi Casa for the Philippine market. He is joined in this venture by his wife Malou, an interior designer.

The couple have been manufacturing modular kitchens and cabinets since 2000. They expanded to importing luxe furniture pieces in 2006 when they felt that the time was right.

Back in 2006, he recalls, there were only a few dedicated furniture stores. “With limited product lines of big brands, there was a certain market that was underserved. With Jesse, they have more choices.”

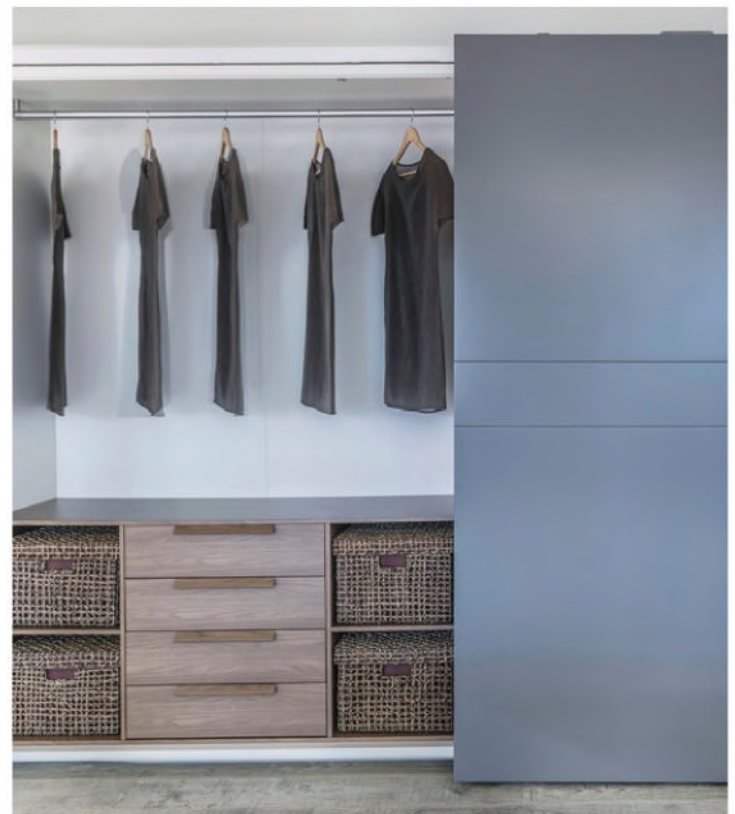
The couple say they bring in Italian brands suited to the Philippine market. “Not all brands would be applicable here. You

have to be more picky. We look for other brands outside of Italy, too, and we carry some items from Spain,” Malou says.

She details Jesse’s design philosophy: “Nothing too formal, so we have simple lines because we want a clean look. The feel is modern, luxurious *and* functional. The quality should be very good, but the look is casual and livable.”

Stephen adds that they also consider smaller living spaces like condominiums. He explains, “The smaller the space you try to fill, the bigger the budget that you will have. Instead of buying ten rooms worth of sofas, we encourage people to put value on quality. For example, we advise them to consider a wardrobe set and a kitchen that are flexible and efficient. In a smaller space, storage is very valuable.” ■

Visit the Jesse showroom at LRI Design Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St. Bel-Air II, Makati. Tel. 403-0121



Designer Directed

IN VOGUE FINISHES FOR THE HOME DERIVED FROM NATURE

BY ANTON BARRETTO, ANNA M. ROSETE , MARISSA LOPA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO AND KURT ALVAREZ



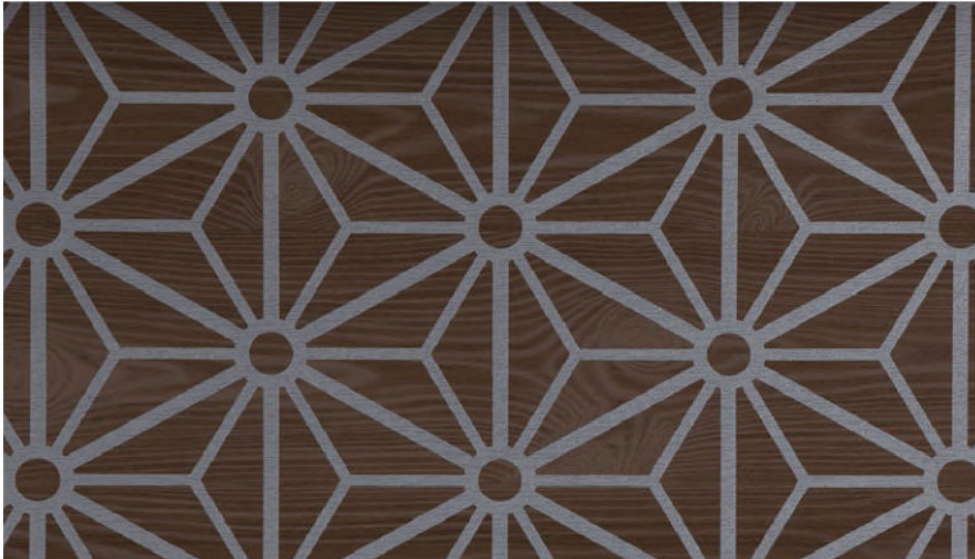
CLOCKWISE: Mongolian Lamb Skin, P56,000. Whole Crocodile Skin, P156,000. Senora Dolorosa, P19,680. Immaculada, P18,000, All from Celestina. Dimas Rug in Grey, BoConcept.

Skin Deep

Hide in all its incarnations employed as finishes provides exotic appeal



CLOCKWISE: Wood pattern large vase, P19,500. Wood high bowl, P28,000, All from KISH. Eco Chic II 50004, P4,500. BN Intenz 49040, P3,000. BN Intenz 49050, P3,000, All from Wall Crown Design Center.



Faux Bois

The artistic adaptation of wood grains in different media brings the outdoors in





CLOCKWISE: Punta cana side table (Railway Silver finish), P27,500, W17. Georgetti Ino bar cabinet with double doors, Furnitalia. Tray/Rectangular Plain Silver Leaf, P1,780, Firma. P12W-1 Napkin rings / gold shell / multicolor tassel (set of 6), P1,780, ac+632. Oxidized Painting with Silver Leaf by Tata Montilla, P68,500, W17. Penta Table Lamp, Furnitalia.

Gilded Elegance

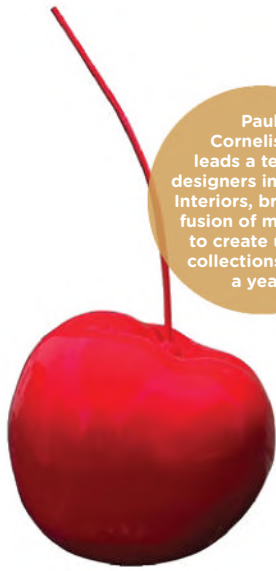
Proof that the timeless technique of gilding still makes everything a lot more extraordinary



Fashion Interiors

SPICING UP STYLISH SPACES

BY LEAH PUYAT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



Paul Cornelissen leads a team of designers in Fashion Interiors, bringing a fusion of materials to create unique collections twice a year.



IN A WORLD mad for Instagram, Pinterest, Tumbler and Tinder, the beautiful, impactful, unforgettable and “like-able” image has come to rule our view of the world. The visual endeavors, art, architecture, interior design and fashion have become markedly present as we seek and strive for more and more striking images. Thus, cross-pollination is now a natural occurrence among the creative worlds. Artists do fashion collaborations, architects design household goods and photographers design t-shirts.

A new shop in the metro captures this zeitgeist. Fashion Interiors exists for those who believe that fashion statements do not end with one's #OOTD. Ms. Mel Balingasa, head of marketing for the shop, explains, “Our concept is to make an interior fashionable, spicing up the usual furniture to create an upgraded and surprising atmosphere. We use the latest materials and exciting fabrics, and come up with two collections a year.” Just like in the fashion world.

A team of designers, led

by Paul Cornelissen, “live and breathe fashion.” They gather trends and directions that can be applied to interiors. Their latest collections feature over-scaled pieces that reflect the more voluminous and structured shapes in many collections. Metallic materials and the juxtaposition of the raw and polished are also strong directions. Angular lines and curvaceous silhouettes happily coexist, as do bold colors and quiet neutrals. The pairing of extremes creates a vivid dynamic energy that will certainly update any space.

“It’s all about that rare fusion of unique materials with recycled goods, an exclusive selection of models and tones, that add up to a fashionable interior,” concludes Ms. Balingasa.

Investing in carefully selected materials and pieces will always be in fashion. And that is at the heart of Fashion Interiors.

Fashion Interiors is located at 2307 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati. Tel. 662-0391. Email sales@fashioninteriors.ph



Abstract Wall Art

CREATE AN INTERESTING AND LIVELY SPACE USING WATER-BASED NIPPON PAINT

BY TESS RAYMUNDO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY OCS ALVAREZ

Turn those extra tiles into a work of art using a range of products from Nippon Paint.



TIP: Achieve this look with Nippon Paint's Momento Enhancer Gold Frost glazed over an existing painted wall. The enhancer can be applied on walls with existing paint color. Make a design statement with an accent wall.



HOMEOWNERS USUALLY HAVE extra tiles in the storage area after a home renovation or construction. One way to put these tiles into good use is to paint on it and install it as wall art in your home.

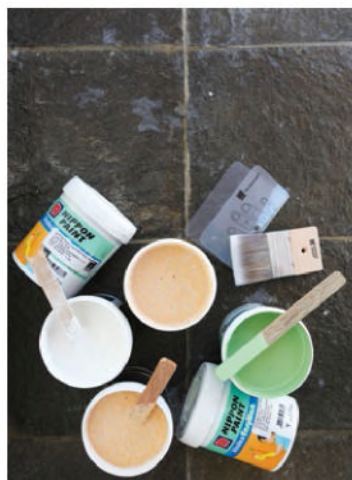
Nippon Paint offers a wide range of paint colors available in the Philippine market. And to satiate the growing demand in the market with precise color accuracy, Nippon has deployed Nippon Colour Creations tinting machines, which makes it convenient for consumers to get the paint color that they prefer to spruce up their homes.

Creating a textured wall that adds character to your home is made easy with Nippon Momento Special Effects paint, a range of interior coatings that give walls a textured and sparkling finish. A luxurious looking wall is easy to achieve with a variety of effects such as gold, silver and pearlescent shine.

With these, Marilen Montenegro, interior stylist and model turns tiles into a work of art following these simple steps:

1. Gather the following materials from modern trade outlets, hardware stores and paint centers:

- 3 pieces of tiles (here, we used 60 x 60 tiles)
- Roller brush
- Tile adhesive
- Plywood (size should be the exact size of the 3 tiles combined) to be used as backboard for mounting the tiles on the wall
- Nippon paint materials:
 - Nippon Hycote paint (matte type) to be used as a primer whose pot life is only for an hour once mixed
 - Nippon Vinilex easy wash (Vinilex Easywash Single Blade 3102T and Vinilex Easywash Garden Path 4204T)
 - Nippon Momento Gold frost and snow frost variants
 - Nippon paint brush
 - Nippon spatula



- Nippon stirring sticks
2. Place the tiles on the floor and paint the primer using Nippon Hycote paint (matte type).

3. While waiting for the tiles to dry, you can install the plywood on the wall, which will function as the backboard to hold the mounted tiles.

4. Once the paint on the tiles is dry, you can mount tiles using the tile adhesive on the plywood installed on the wall.

5. When the primer paint on the tiles is dry, use the roller brush to apply the Nippon Vinilex easy wash paint in a vertical manner, and let it dry. Before doing this, stir the paint with the stirring sticks.

6. To add texture to your artwork, use the paint brush and create slanted strokes on the tiles using Nippon Momento frost paint materials, and let it dry. ■



Marilen Montenegro shows that by using simple materials like tiles and quality Nippon Paint, you can create your own abstract wall art.

Design Smarts

Beautify your home by doing a DIY painting activity using Nippon Momento Special Effect Paint together with a tool kit which comes with a brush, stirrer and spatula. When painting glazed tiles, glazed brickwork or a smooth concrete floor, you need to start with a primer. Nippon Hycote 51WT is a primer specifically developed to promote excellent adhesion of paint onto tiles/ceramic surfaces. Below are easy steps to follow in painting your tile or glazed wall:

Tip 1: Apply 1 coat of Nippon Paint Hycote 51WT to any tile surface by spraying or using a good quality brush/roller. Avoid re-brushing.

Tip 2: When the primer is dry, apply 2 coats of any desired Topcoat from the list below:

- Nippon Momento Special Effect Paint
- Nippon Weatherbond
- Nippon Odour-less AirCare
- Nippon EA-4 Finish
- Nippon PU Recoatable Finish & any low sheen and matt finishing water-based product

You need to maintain consistent strokes for a uniform effect when you paint the topcoat. It is also important to use a masking tape to cover light switches and other surfaces that you do not want to paint prior to painting the surface.

For an artistic looking wall, you can use Momento Special Effect cloud paint. Employ a criss-cross motion using a brush and smoothen the surface after painting with a spatula. If you are using Nippon Momento Special Effect frost paint, simply paint using a brush at a 45 degree angle in the same direction in order to create a beautiful textured wall.

To know more about Nippon Paint and the list of stores simply log-on to: www.nipponpaint.ph

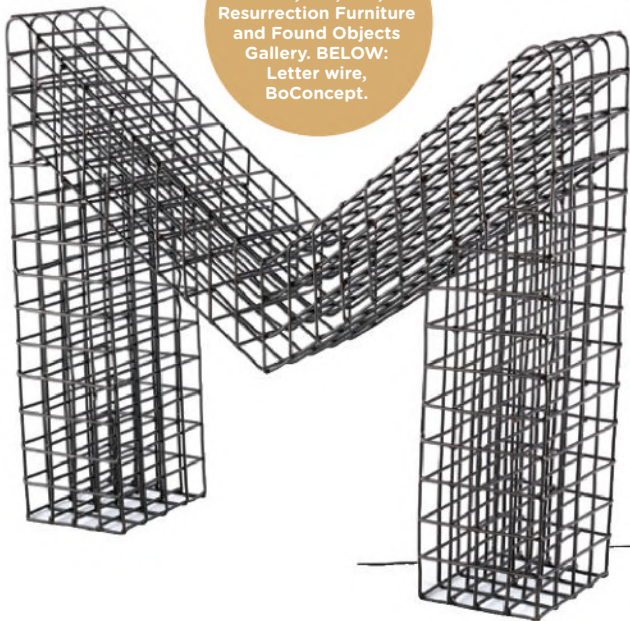
Amped Up Industrial

REDEFINING THE ROUGH

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **KURT ALVAREZ**
AND **JAR CONCENCO**



ABOVE:
Cool side
table, P14,000,
Resurrection Furniture
and Found Objects
Gallery. BELOW:
Letter wire,
BoConcept.



CLOCKWISE:
On the Rock
table, Ligne
Roset. Record
crate, Garage88.
Trépied floor
lamp, Ligne
Roset.



The Creative Gene

CELEBRATE THE
DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS
IN YOUR FAMILY!

BY ANA ROCHA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAR CONCENCO



I AM BLESSED to be part of a family of artists and designers. My grandfather Julio Victor Rocha was the first Dean of Architecture of the University of Santo Thomas. He had six children. Aside from my Lolo Pappy, two of his children embraced the call of the artistic world: my uncles Rene Rocha and Charlie Rocha, who sign his paintings "Carlos." You can view his work at www.galeriapaloma.com

When my father Fernando Rocha retired, he would spend many afternoons visiting his brother Charlie in his studio. One day my dad asked Uncle Charlie if he could paint and thereafter made two paintings. They are now prized family possessions.

Designers and artists in every family should be celebrated! It doesn't matter whether you trained as one all your life or you are a novice dabbling in design for the love of it.

I am sharing with you one of my Dad's works, which I call "happy" because that's how I feel whenever I see it. Fernando Rocha inspires me, and as for all his works, I covet them all! ■



Art by
Fernando
Rocha. Price
upon request.
Galeria Paloma.

A Unique Garden-Inspired Community

A HIGH-RISE TOWER SURROUNDED BY LUSH GREENERIES



MEGAWORLD WELCOMES

The Florence as the residential gated garden community with picturesque sceneries of lush gardens. It has achieved the perfect dwelling place for relaxation and tranquility amidst the bustling urban landscape of Fort Bonifacio.

An emblem of modern Europe, the three-tower curvilinear designed condo creates a modern distinction of upscale living and exudes a relaxing ambience brought about by its green surroundings. Its centralized residential lobby also has a unique 'homey' atmosphere through its modern contemporary design.

The residential enclave is easily accessible to major thoroughfares such as C5, EDSA and the South Luzon Expressway. It is also conveniently located near the Makati City Central Business District, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, St. Luke's Medical Center Global City, The International School Manila, The British International School, Manila Japanese School as well as high-end shopping malls, supermarkets, and rows of retail shops in Fort Bonifacio.

"This is a different concept for a residential community in McKinley Hill. Future residents will live in a high-rise tower surrounded by lush greeneries, thick landscapes and gardens," says Hernandez.

Each tower, 22 to 28 storeys high, will have one- to three-bedroom units consisting of lavish 43 sq.m. to 94.7 sq.m. of space. All units come pre-furnished with a balcony that overlooks the picturesque scenery of the Makati CBD, Fort Bonifacio, and the beautiful garden landscape below.

Truly, McKinley Hill's one



and only gated-garden community infuses modern European touches into the township, and brings life to the beauty of Manila. Life is indeed beautiful at The Florence.

Megaworld currently holds the record as the biggest landholder in Fort Bonifacio with approximately 105 hectares, offering four townships with different lifestyle identities. Each township serves as a living masterpiece that brings the best of select global destinations to the Philippines. Aside from McKinley Hill, other townships include the 15.4-hectare Uptown Bonifacio, the 5-hectare Forbes Town Center, and 34.5-hectare McKinley West. ■

For more information on The Florence, visit www.megaworldatthefort.com.

The Tuscan Life in McKinley Hill

IN THE MIDDLE of a bustling city rises an exclusive enclave surrounded with nature's colors. Megaworld, the country's leading real estate developer and pioneer of the "Live-Work-Play-Learn" township concept in the Philippines, brings that aspiration of an Italian-inspired garden setting into the heart of Fort Bonifacio with The Florence.

"Megaworld brings the Tuscan lifestyle in the country. Residents can get to enjoy living in a gated community amidst the vibrant McKinley Hill township," says Noli D. Hernandez, Megaworld senior vice-president.

The Florence is located inside the famous 50-ha. McKinley Hill, known as Megaworld's largest township in Metro Manila. The integrated urban township

is a place where everything is inspired by the lights, sounds, and tastes of Italy. It is home to the McKinley Hill Stadium, the country's first world-class, competition-ready football field, and the famous Venice Piazza, inspired by Venice's Piazza di San Marco.

In accordance to Italian appeal, McKinley Hill also brings the sights and sounds of the city of Venice with its highly anticipated premiere commercial establishment, The Grand Canal Mall. The mall will be McKinley Hill's new lifestyle destination, which features the country's first man-made Grand Canal complete with authentic Italian gondolas.

Visit www.megaworldatthefort.com for inquiries and more information.

Uptown Ritz

THE TOWNSHIP'S FIRST
AND ONLY 'ALL-SUITES'
RESIDENTIAL CONDO



TAILORED TO THE COUNTRY'S ELITE, Uptown Bonifacio satisfies your relentless pursuit of all things glamorous with Uptown Ritz Residence, the township's first and only 'all-suites' residential condominium.

Megaworld, the country's leading township, residential condominium and BPO office space developer, has taken careful steps in conceptualizing an address where you realize your finest pursuits have finally found a home.

Standing at 45 storeys, Uptown Ritz sets the benchmark for first class living in the metro's newest CBD. Its all-glass and aluminum façade

will be an important addition to Uptown Bonifacio's architectural landscape.

Offering two- to four-bedroom units, all its residences are suites—large and proud spaces designed with the kind of style and sophistication that stands out and sets its residents apart. With as few as six units per floor, residents reap the benefits of low-density and true exclusivity.

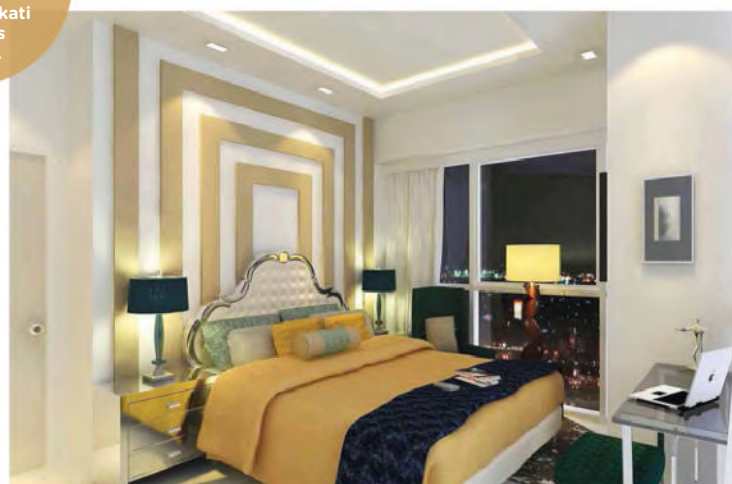
These privileged few will enjoy amenities worthy of the elite offered by Uptown Ritz. The property's bi-level podium amenity deck offers a fitness center overlooking a swimming pool and spa complex, children's playground, bi-level nursery and function rooms fitting for the



The country's first "all-suites" residential development is Uptown Bonifacio by Megaworld.



Uptown Ritz boasts of spacious units that overlook views of Fort Bonifacio and the Makati Business District.



most glamorous social gatherings and elite corporate events.

"We set the bar higher in luxury living. What we are offering at Uptown Ritz are spacious units that overlook the cosmopolitan views of the Fort Bonifacio and Makati central business district," says Noli D. Hernandez, Megaworld senior vice-president for sales and marketing.

Uptown Ritz will stand in the heart of the Fort's newest corporate playground, Uptown Bonifacio, where the powerhouses of Asia Pacific's business and commerce are relocating. Slated to spearhead the growth and development of the up and coming CBD, Uptown Bonifacio will offer Megaworld's signature township components: Live, Work, Play and Learn.

The township will offer top grade office sites and a cosmopolitan commercial center at the doorstep of its luxury residential

condominiums. Situated next to the institutional zone, the families of business leaders will be perfectly placed beside the country's most reputable international secondary schools: International School Manila, British School Manila and Manila Japanese School. Within the confines of the global city, Uptown Bonifacio will also be steps away from world-class health care at St Luke's Medical Center and several of Manila's finest lifestyle attractions such as Forbes Town Center and the Manila Polo Club.

The lifestyle offered at Uptown Ritz is one of glitz and glamour, one that highlights the importance of exclusivity and the prominence of modern cosmopolitan living. Live large at Uptown Ritz. ■

Visit www.megaworldatthefort.com for more information.

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folio

ART / DESIGN / PLACES / INSPIRATION

Art Against All Odds, p. 32



Art Against All Odds

AN ARTIST'S STRUGGLE IS HIS OWN LIBERATING JOURNEY

BY ANNA M. ROSETE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY OCS ALVAREZ



Specializing in the classical method of drawing and painting, artist Danilo Arriola trained in The Florence Academy of Art.

ON A PARTICULARLY blistering April morning, chiaroscurist Danilo Arriola's home and studio wallow in buttery natural light. He was exceptionally concerned that setting the time of his shoot later than 9 a.m. would mean having to bear the summer heat, but we were grateful to catch him in his element—his living room which allows light, one of the main protagonists of his work, to enter, unapologetic.

Before us stood an army of easels which bear his work. One of them supported a television screen which looped slides of his recently concluded Ayala Museum Artist Space show, *Chiaroscurist Danilo Arriola: First Solo Show* which is a collaboration with production designers to create a space for his work that referenced his time in Florence.

It was quite a dramatic journey for Arriola to arrive at this first solo endeavor. His is a story marked by sacrifice and faith, all in the name of art.

From Singapore to New York

In the '90s, Arriola was an architect who enjoyed a career in Singapore, until he received a phone call from his parents telling him to return home, for his sister had passed away due to rabies, a life event which forced him to take a hard look at his life, and ask himself how he'd like to spend the rest of it. He found the answer in painting, and immediately set on a quest for the best education in the field. "*Naghanap ako ng gusto ko. Gusto kong maging Tadema*," he says, referring to the Frisian artist admired for his dexterity in draftsmanship. "I'd buy posters *nila* Tadema at Waterhouse," Arriola continues. His search for the perfect painting academy brought him to the various art academies in New York.

In 2001, he received the brochure for the Florence Academy of Art, founded by Daniel Graves. Situated in the cradle of the Renaissance, Arriola reveled in the same artistic environment that shaped the likes of Michelangelo and Donatello, but passion was not enough to make ends meet. His earnings from his architectural job in Singapore enabled him to enroll for the first year, but he had to contend with the living expenses in a Florence that had just converted its monetary system into the hefty Euro.



ABOVE: In Arriola's living room are a few of his works, the majority of which are just waiting to be brought to their new homes. BELOW: A view into the artist's tudio.

The Artist as a Filipino in Florence

"*Tumira ako sa Altro Arno. An old lady who owned a leather goods stall in Sta. Croce became my surrogate aunt. I had to struggle between being a good student and a good Filipino,*" Arriola says, referring to his relationship with the Filipinos who worked in Florence, and who pooled their resources in order to help him with his daily living. He would join them in the Piazza della Santa Maria Novella on Sundays, where they would ask him, "*Bakit ka pa nag-aaral? Nandito ka na, magtrabaho ka na.*" So he took odd jobs like hair cutting and massage therapy, in order to make a living. "I can relate to the movie *Milan*," Arriola says of the 2004 Star Cinema film, which chronicled the lives of the OFWs living in Italy. "*Kinailangan kong makisama sa kanila. They were so proud that they knew a Filipino art student in Florence,*" Danilo relates of that time.





ABOVE: Arriola's studio is akin to a cabinet of curiosities where a collection of objects that have aesthetic value to the artist is lovingly arranged. LEFT: On his easel, a painting is in the works.





LEFT: Rows of iconic horse ornaments from Sarao Jeepneys inhabit a shelf on Arriola's studio. **RIGHT:** A very recent painting has been acquired by a collector of Arriola's work.



Earning a living as a student abroad was one thing. Honing his skill as an artist was another. In the Florence Academy of Art, the classical style of painting from life was instilled in him. "The first thing that my teachers did was to slow me down. I had to take a leap from the 21st century to the 14th century," he says. His days were spent drawing precisely from classical sculptures and lithographs, determined to continue the classical tradition of painting and drawing. "There is an unwritten contract that once you have studied in the Florence Academy of Art, you will continue their tradition and represent your country in this style," Danilo says.

Staying Afloat

He made it through his first year, but the journey to his second year was a slow struggle. Guilt plagued him, too, for he saw how his family became riddled with debt in

order to see him through his dreams. He applied for art grants, and approached people of means who could help him out. Of all the people he wrote, only two extended help, Lucio Tan of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation and the Mega Star Sharon Cuneta, who gave him funds for three months of housing.

It was also during this time that Danilo began to suffer from ankylosing spondylitis, a type of arthritis that causes severe pain of the spinal joints. Still, he was steadfast in his zeal to return to Florence. "I have to polish my Italian because I am going back to Italy," he told himself, and enrolled in an Italian language course where a classmate coaxed him into sending his portfolio to a politician who agreed to help him with his studies.

However, Arriola's ailment won over his determination to complete his course at the Florence Academy of Art. At one point, he was too ill to actually work with paint and brushes, making him concentrate more on

pencil sketches. Now, he is still nursing the pain from his disease, but he is better, actually painting, with fairly steady patronage.

These days, he paints from assemblages of antiques and finds from thrift shops, which he lovingly curates in his studio.

His paintings show undeniable virtuosity in his chosen art. Through them, he savors every waking moment by rendering the delicate interaction between natural light and the subject.

"I'd rather be free. I don't work for the money. To put it bluntly, I don't work on commissions," he proclaims. "All I want to draw are beautiful things. I want to show that this is how paintings and drawings should be done."

As for his dramatic story, the artist is peacefully resigned. "With all that's happened, I've been provided for, and it's enough for me to say that I am fortunate. Life gets better." ■

“ZZZZzzzz”

-Miguel Javier

“What a snooze”

-Bob & Melissa

“YAAWWWNN”

-Carl Andrew



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Furry Meets Artsy

ABIGAIL MONTANA
INFUSES CHINA PATTERNS
WITH PET SILHOUETTES

BY JONALYN ESTRELLA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO



Best of both worlds. Artist and pet lover Abigail Montana combined two things that she is most passionate about: art and her furry friends.



HAPPINESS IS BEING a pet lover and artist. Abigail Montana, owner of Floral Pets, lives by this example. A UP graduate of Fine Arts and a member of Ang INK (Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan), Abigail is an art director in an advertising agency. “When you work in the advertising industry, you have to have this creative outlet to preserve your identity as an artist,” she says. “I believe that the Lord blessed me with that creative space, which is Floral Pets.”

Officially established during Art in the Park in March this year, Floral Pets set out to be a distinctive (and cute) brand of art that stemmed from the artist’s own interests. “Ang INK has opened the doors for me. The cool artists of Ang INK and my fiancé, who is also an artist, are my inspirations,” she explains. “I had this idea of combining my being a pet lover with the beauty and

intricacy of fine china. I want to achieve a signature look of these two interests together. I’ve also done paintings with a different color. It depends on the requests of my clients.”

Watercolor is her medium. “I’m in love with watercolor. I love how you can go light and fluid with it. I also like its unpredictable factor; you can allow the water to just flow with paint,” she says.

There is no question that Abigail Montana is a true artist and pet hobbyist. With her dogs Oreo, Kofi, and Tutti, and recently adopted stray kitten Summer, she shows how a love for arts and crafts and furry friends can enrich one’s life. ■

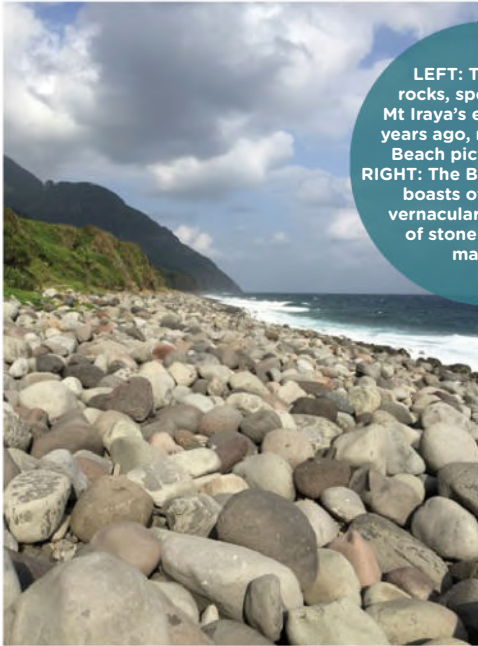
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Breathtaking Batanes

A DESTINATION
DEFINITELY WORTH
THE TREK

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY TRINA ALINDOGAN



LEFT: These huge rocks, spewed out by Mt Iraya's eruption many years ago, make Valugan Beach picture-perfect. RIGHT: The Basco Lighthouse boasts of the Ivatan vernacular architecture of stone and rubble masonry.

OUR FIRST ATTEMPT to go to Batanes was postponed due to a strong storm headed straight for the islands on the day we were scheduled to set out. Since I have issues with airplane rides—much more, small, jet-propelled ones—I was grateful that the flight was cancelled. I think it was fate because a year later, we were blessed with perfect weather in this most breathtaking place.

Depending on the airline used, it takes about 90 minutes to get to Batanes, located at the northern-most tip of the Philippines. The planes land in Basco Airport, which is bustling for a couple of hours in the morning, and is calm and quiet the rest of the day. Locals and tourists alike hop on their bikes and are allowed on the airstrip. We, on the other hand, spent time taking jump shots because we figured we will probably never get another chance to do this again on a landing strip.

The roads to our hotel are surprisingly well-paved. Each bend on the road that snakes through the endless mountainside has a sign that says “Blow Ur Horn.” Everyone who drives follows this and honks their horn to alert oncoming vehicles. Although well-maintained, the roads are narrow and there is a possibility of needing to back up if two cars meet from opposite directions.



One of
the many
breathtaking
views of
Batanes.



Fundacion Abad

We stayed in the beautiful Fundacion Abad. It is a charming hotel developed by the family of Pacita Abad, a known Filipino artist who was born in Basco. The large property sits atop a mountainous area with a 360-degree view of the sea, the meadows, valleys and hills of Batan Island. There are lovely, well-trimmed pocket gardens with sculptures and statues of the Abad ancestors that seem to depict the tranquil life they lived.

A pathway and a few hundred stone steps can be found on one side that go all the way down the “beach area.” It is quite a hike and we gave up about halfway through, for fear

of not being able to climb back up before the sun sets.

The structures of the hotel, which has two main sections, are made of stone, similar to those of the local houses. One section houses the dining area where we had most of our farm-to-table meals. Fundacion Abad just has a few rooms, each one different, well-designed and meticulously thought of. The views from most of the rooms are spectacular!

Classic Ivatan home

Like Fundacion Abad, a classic Ivatan home is built of stone and *cogon*, sturdy materials that can withstand brutal storms.

The stone walls are very thick, sometimes measuring 2-3 in depth, and are made by a tedious process of extracting lime from dead coral and combining this with wood. This process is repeated for several layers, burnt and put into a crater on the ground that serves as a kiln. It takes six to 12 months for a home to be proclaimed inhabitable.

A typical Ivatan home is composed of a kitchen, living quarters, and a bathroom, which is most often detached. The oldest known Ivatan home, built in 1887, is the House of Dakay. This house and more of the Ivatan ruins can be seen in Sabtang, one of Batanes’ 10 islands.



TOP LEFT: The Tukon Church was fashioned from stacked and bonded boulders. It was made by local craftsmen, and brought to fruition by Architects Tina Turrallba and Joven Ignacio. BELOW LEFT: Yaru Nu Artes is a little art shop featuring local Ivatan artists. It was established in partnership with the Pacita Abad Center for the Arts. BELOW RIGHT: A typical Ivatan stonehouse.





LEFT: The Mayahaw Arch is naturally formed. **RIGHT:** One of the well-trimmed pocket gardens in the Fundacion Pacita Abad exhibits statues of Jorge and Aurora Abad, the parents of the artist Pacita.



Sabtang

Sabtang has an area of 31 sq.km. with only 1,800 people. A *faluwa* or the Ivatan boat is used to transport people and goods from Batan to Sabtang. The time it takes to cross varies immensely, based on the waves and the current. It is extremely scary for non-Ivatans because the waves can be very high, especially from mid-day onwards. The current is extremely strong because it is caused by the clashing of two merging seas: the West Philippine Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The *faluwa* has no *katig* because it cannot handle the waves. Despite this, it is worth going to Sabtang to see the stone houses, naturally formed Mayahaw Arch and the picturesque Valugan Beach, a beach full of boulders spewed by Mt. Iraya's eruption many years ago.

After the terrifying journey back, a visit to Honesty Coffee Shop was happily necessary to gather one's wits and strengthen wobbly legs. The quaint coffee shop is unique in this day and age because there is no shop-keeper. Customers list their own purchases,

tally their bills and drop the money into a little drop box. We were told that the shop owner rarely has issues with stolen goods. Towards the back of the coffee shop, motorcycles are also available for rent using the same honesty system!

Batan Island

The remaining days of our trip were spent visiting the scenic spots in Batan Island, and there were many! Tukon Church is an enchanting little chapel built like the stone houses and has paintings done by Pacita Abad's students. The Basco Weather Station, with its giant soccer-ball edifice, rests on a high point in Basco with magnificent views. The tunnels built by the Ivatan captives of the Japanese are interconnected and hidden on the sides of the mountains.

There are a few lighthouses, some of which are relatively new. Our tour guide set up a nice dinner spread by the Basco Lighthouse just before sunset. Remnants of two old lighthouses are seen just outside the

Mahatao church of San Carlos Borromeo. Our guide tells us that the lights of these two lighthouses used to align with each other and served as a guide for boats and ships to avoid the corals in the area.

Racuh Apayaman is a shared pasture-land where one can't help but imagine seeing the Marlboro Man on his horse emerging from the vast expanse of rolling hills and valleys. No wonder it is called Marlboro Country. With the help of the numerous cows that graze in the area—and, come to think of it, in most areas in Batan—the grass is kept at just the perfect height, as if there were a giant lawnmower that trims the grass regularly.

Apart from these, countless stops were as breathtaking as the last one, with far-reaching panoramas of valleys, hills and cliffs, almost always with the dramatic backdrop of the sea and its fervently active waves. The Islands of Batanes, inhabited only by about 17,000 people and visited by about the same number of tourists, is definitely worth the trek. ■





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homes



A Perfect Marriage, p. 44

Large panes of glass let plenty of natural light into the living room, which features Minotti and Armani Casa furniture.





THE PERFECT MARRIAGE

WHAT SEEM TO BE OPPOSING IDEAS—OLD AND NEW, TECHNOLOGY AND NATURE—HAPPILY CO-EXIST IN THIS QUEZON CITY HOME TO A COUPLE, THEIR FIVE CHILDREN, AND THEN SOME

BY ANNA M. ANGARA / PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO



LEFT: A lamp of a curvy reclining woman adds a touch of whimsy and color to this corner. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** The use of glass, mirrors, and a minimal color palette contribute to the airy and open feel of this home.

THIS TRULY UNIQUE HOUSE is a perfect marriage of modern and traditional. Here, glass and steel are mixed with older school building materials like brick and wood. Contemporary Italian furniture and abstract wallpaper are juxtaposed with antique wooden doors from India and Bali. Philippe Starck chairs are combined with a Jo-Liza table in the dining room. An indoor “green wall” with an integrated sprinkler runs from the basement all the way to the top floor. It serves as a backdrop for the statement staircase with its bright red color, clear glass steps, and leather-covered handrails.

This couple of 16 years moved into their dream family home about two years ago. From the beginning they were very involved in the building process. They knew what they wanted and asked Architect Milo Vasquez and Anton R. Mendoza of ARM Designs, Inc. to help them realize their ideal abode.

Soft and warm

The house, essentially modern in shape, is given warmth and, ironically, “softness” by the brick walls. The husband initially wanted

a “completely new and super modern house” whereas the wife insisted on using brick “to give it a more feminine touch and add color.”

The couple loves to travel and took much of the inspiration for the house from their trips to Italy, Spain and South Africa. They wanted to achieve what the wife calls “a tropical resort kind of home” where family and close friends could feel “like they were outside of Manila, enjoying nature” but also feeling like they had never left home.

The five-bedroom house also includes a movie theater, an office, a gym and suitable habitats for the husband’s feathered, furry and cold-blooded friends. Constructed with every modern convenience in mind, the structure still took a backseat to Mother Nature in the planning process.

Before building began, two very important factors were considered. First, as nature lovers, the couple insisted that none of the old trees on the property would be cut down. The house had to be built around the existing landscape, which the architect achieved. The pool area becomes more dramatic under the shelter of the large tree hung with numerous capiz lanterns.





* Openness is priced in this home that was pegged after the tropical resort look.



In the dining room, Philippe Starck chairs combined with a Jo-Liza table can seat as many as twelve. The sideboard is by Armani Casa. Apart from a view of the pool, guests are treated to a display of the owner's feathered friends.





A kitchen designed for multi-tasking. The layout enables the wife to cook, entertain, and supervise her children at the same time. OPPOSITE PAGE: An indoor “green wall” or vertical garden with an integrated sprinkler system, runs from the basement level all the way to the top floor.





Exotic menagerie

The second factor was the husband's menagerie of exotic animals—a crocodile, a bearcat, an iguana, a couple of gibbons, three Tibetan mastiffs, several tortoises, macaws, cockatoos, and koi fish. Their habitats were properly incorporated in and around the house. Having a giant cage as tall as the house with many colorful birds does create the impression that you're in an exotic locale, adding to the vacation and tropical resort feel of the home.

The husband wanted to have everything automated. Sliding glass doors and bathroom fixtures are operated by a touch of a button or by sensors. From the security and the lighting to the state-of-the-art centralized sound system installed by MK Sound System, everything can be controlled by his smartphone.

The large formal living room is conducive to entertaining and discussion, with such conversation starters as a piranha-filled fish tank, a lamp of a curvy, reclining woman, purchased by the husband at a Manila FAME show as it reminded him of his wife. The husband and his foreign business partners often use the various seating areas, with Minotti and Armani Casa furniture, for their meetings.





ABOVE: In a room shared by the couple's two youngest daughters, different colored walls separate each area. **RIGHT:** White on white in the eldest daughter's bathroom. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** The "stepped" ceilings designed by Milo Vasquez make rooms like the master bedroom feel spacious and provide a unique unifying detail throughout the house.



The home was designed so that one could have views of either the pool, the koi pond or the garden from anywhere in the house.



Family is important

The wife is a gracious hostess who enjoys cooking and entertaining. The entertaining area is positioned to have a view of the pool. The lanai is the most utilized area in the house. It's where family and friends linger on the Kartell sofa and chairs for after-dinner drinks. The clean kitchen, with its neutral palette of greys and whites, features the latest Siematic cabinets and Sub-Zero and Gaggenau appliances.

The family room on the top floor is a favorite space, and you'll understand why when you step inside. Adjacent to the master bedroom, it's an informal living area with a comfortable Roche Bobois sofa for lounging, watching TV or even meditation. The sofa sits on top of a whimsical "pebble" rug that was bought in Los Angeles. The same "stepped" ceiling design devised by Milo Vasquez links the family room to the master bedroom. The walls are dedicated to the display of black and white framed photographs of the couple, their children, various trips and milestone events, highlighting the importance of family in this home.

A pair of matching carved doors from India is kept together on this floor, one at the entrance to the gym, the other across it in the master bedroom. This is where the couple relaxes and enjoys the best views of the house. After a long day at work, they like nothing more than to stand on the balcony and admire the shimmering reflection of the lights on the pool, and appreciate life's blessings. ■

Design Smarts

Make an entrance. The use of several gates within a house is a Balinese idea. Traditional Balinese architecture uses a series of structures inside a walled enclosure and connected with a series of gates, either split or roofed. Here, the street gate leads to another gate, both roofed, which in turn opens to a glass walkway placed above the koi pond. This simple but dramatic path then leads to the main door. Koi fish in many Asian homes and public spaces symbolize success and good fortune.

Use statement wallpaper. It adds texture, color and interest in the bedrooms and hallway, and can be used as a decorative feature on the ceiling, as seen in the master bathroom.

Bring the outdoors in. A double-height lanai overlooking the pool and garden, and a lot of glass to be able to see the views outside can help create the "tropical resort" feel. The house feels very open and airy, thanks to the layout and use of reflective mirrors and clear glass.

Personalize your home. Accent pieces such as one-of-a-kind art or furniture can add drama or whimsy, and say a lot about the owners' personalities and values. Here, the couple collects art that is meaningful to them: Mother and Child-themed paintings by Tam Austria, images of nature by Prudencio Lamarozza, and sculptures of an angel and the resurrected Christ by Daniel de la Cruz.

SMART ABOUT ART

A JUDICIOUS BALANCING OF PAINTINGS, BOOKS, ODDS AND ENDS COLLECTED THROUGH THE YEARS, AND NEW PIECES CAN BE A WINNING COMBINATION FOR A HOME

BY LEAH PUYAT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO





From the vantage point of vintage. A large Pardo de Leon painting dominates the living room. A new sofa from Eric Paras's cult favorite destination a-11, marries perfectly with an old traveling trunk, a glass box of vintage watches, new wooden stools and graceful sculpture of a ballerina by Ferdinand Cacnio.



Family lore. A Pardo de Leon still life of a window fuses a contemporary art work with a dining table and chairs that were inherited from the homeowner's mother. The table and chairs were refinished in different tones for a fresher, lighter touch. The chandelier is a new piece that melds together the area's centuries-spanning pieces, to create an inviting and interesting vibe. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** The open kitchen is a popular spot for the homeowner's guests. "The truth is that we barely cook in this kitchen, it's really for hanging out," he admits easily.



"I AM NOT REALLY SURE if this house is worthy of your magazine," the man of the house confesses, with a sheepish smile.

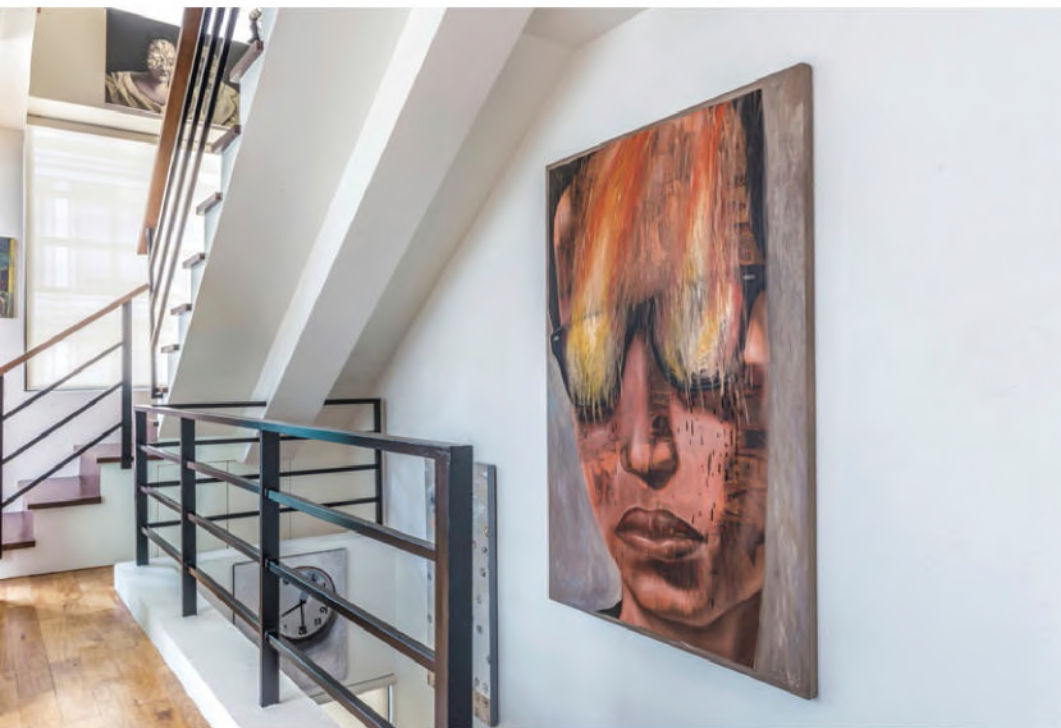
But we don't even get a chance to sit when we enter the place, as we eagerly look around, completely won over by the clever and judicious use of space and juxtaposition of pieces. Two oversized Pardo de Leon paintings dominate the living and dining areas. The dining table and chairs were inherited from the homeowner's mother, and the sofa is a new find from Eric Paras' a-11, the coffee table is a vintage trunk used by the homeowner's grandfather on his travels.

The wonder of it all is that these pieces from different decades and acquired by different people, from the homeowner's family and his young decorator, Raissa Cruz, all work so harmoniously together. There is a casual polish that is grounded by the sense of history. A glass box of vintage watches casually placed on top of a side table in the living area is not just a piece of elegant décor, but an apt symbol of how old objects can be regrouped and repurposed.

Old meets new is an overused phrase in contemporary design, but this home gives it a fresh spin; the homeowner's own deep passion for art, books, and collectibles and his decorator's careful placing and spacing of the home's elements add up to a haven full of charm, character and chutzpah.

"Before this house, I came from a studio that I didn't even bother to fix up, so this has been interesting for me," he admits.

When we express a desire to see more of his art collection, he quips, "Are you sure? It gets gorier as you go up the stairs!"



ABOVE: The art collector jokes that his paintings are gory, and the intense power of the works is undeniable. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Watch this space. The second floor corridor has been converted into a TV room, where the art pieces are, oddly enough, a masterful mix of moody and serene. Paintings from the Discarded Materials series by Art Sanchez and sculpture by Elmer Borlongan.





The bull and the bear. There is a backstory to this art work. "This painting used to hang in the dining room of the old Makati Stock Exchange, and no one really knows who painted it. There was an interesting story; it belonged to my dad, and it went missing for years. Until one day, one of my relatives was cleaning out and sent it to me." The homeowner's sister also carefully steered the priest away from this painting during the house blessing, for fear that the man of the cloth would be offended by the powerful beasts portrayed in the work. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** The English-style library is the man of the house's pride and joy, as well as his personal oasis. "I can't even remember at what age I started loving books." He meticulously arranged all the books on the shelves by himself and he is particularly and justly proud of the personal letters he received from his favorite authors.

Certainly, the collection is not filled with pretty images. Graphic, emotionally intense and dramatic works line the stairs and the walls. Contemporary painters such as Lynryd Paras, Jon Santos, CJ Tanedo are side by side with a 1959 Arturo Luz from the collection of the homeowner's mom. Like many art lovers, he cannot define what makes him grab a piece. "I don't know what it is; I can never really say what will strike my fancy."

Space planning

To make the dining and living areas seem more expansive, the existing windows were replaced with larger glass panels. A deck was added to the slim space outside as well as a pond, both as a smoking nook for guests and additional seating.

There was also some canny camouflaging. The utility box was in plain view, so they designed a sliding wooden panel, and he hung a big Elmer Borlongan on the panel so that the kitchen also has the feeling of being a designed space.

Planning, construction and interior design were all accomplished in six months. The homeowner confesses, "I hadn't really thought of how to fix this place up. But when I saw my sister's house, I guess I got a

little *inggit*. So I got the same decorator, and I can't say that our houses are the same, but Raissa was really able to work well with my art and add the furniture and make it all work well."

Private property

The home was originally configured as a three-bedroom townhouse. The homeowner found the layout confining and tore down some of the walls on the second and third floors. On the second floor is the master bedroom, and a common area that has been converted to a television corner.

On the third floor is the home's piece de resistance. The homeowner is a passionate book lover, and he converted the entire third floor into his own version of a private gentleman's club. An English-style library holds his extensive book collection. A secret watch room keeps his prized treasures, and on the far end of the library, he had the balcony enclosed to create a bar, where he can enjoy drinks with friends.

From his college days, he has made it a habit to write to authors whom he admires, and he has framed the letters he has received from these authors. These are proudly displayed on the shelves. He proudly organized the library himself. "I have business books, biographies,



The third floor balcony was enclosed and turned into a bar, though it can function as a guest room in a pinch. The painting is by Ruel Hilario. The trunk was used by the man of the house's grandfather on his many voyages.





The red leather chair is the pop of color in this compact bedroom. The books are from the homeowner's vast library and the saints by the bedside are gifts from his family. The portrait of the woman is by CJ Tañedo. Of this portrait, the man of the house says, "I don't really know why I was drawn to that face, but I just found her so beautiful."

history books, finance books, fiction, Philippine culture, politics and social history, and a particular interest of mine are books about books and book collecting."

But the library is not just confined to books. He has collected old *Life* and *Time* magazines, and these are lovingly preserved in plastic jackets. He has old telephones, key chains, lighters. And unlike other bibliophiles, he does not look down on bestsellers, and has a shelf for spy thrillers and popular titles, too.

The thrill of the hunt

"It's all about the thrill of the hunt," he shares. "I just love the feeling that I could be looking through a flea market or a garage sale, and

knowing I can find something that's worth a fortune that the owner is just selling for dimes."

The homeowner says that of his siblings he is the only who is afflicted with the collecting gene. His maternal grandfather was a noted art collector, and relatives on his father's side were among the first Filipinos who traveled to study in America's Ivy League. He scoffs when he hears of people who ask their interior decorators or architects to buy books for them. "I can't believe that there are people who would entrust that to someone else," he declares.

The owner recently got engaged and so he and his fiancée are now house hunting. His fiancée jokes, "I promised him that in our next house, he would have an even more beautiful library."

The man of the house ripostes back, "It better be! Or I'm staying here!"

It is easy to see why he would be reluctant to move. On the other hand, we have already invited ourselves over to their next home. With such interesting, layered lives, their next house will surely be another showstopper of a place. ■



EASY ELEGANCE

A MIX OF CONTEMPORARY ELEMENTS
AND UPDATED ORIENTAL MOTIFS

BY LEAH PUYAT / PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO



Polished to perfection. "When I choose colors and patterns, I make sure not to overdo it. Though it was meant to be contemporary, it had to be homey," Antonio Ramos shares her philosophy of design. The patriarch of the family himself set the tone when he remarked that a home is not a museum.





Happy days are here. A Jonathan Adler-inspired floor pattern, and mid-century chairs give this sitting area a retro charm. Cholet Ramos had the floor tiles customized, and envisioned this area as a chic place where people can congregate. As a nod to this space's fashion inspiration, she grouped style-themed books on the coffee table.

"A HOUSE IS NOT A MUSEUM," the patriarch of the family told Cholet Antonio Ramos, daughter of Architect Pablo R. Antonio, Jr., son of the National Artist for Architecture and the Interior Designer for this home. The first son says, "That was the first thing my dad said when we all met. He said that when he came home, he wanted to feel relaxed, not as if he is about to tour a museum. One of his brothers had just had a house built in the super modern style, and while he compared it to being in a museum, I asked my cousin, 'How do you like living in a ruler?'"

Architect Antonio made sure that he integrated all the feng shui elements into the home, and then he envisioned a home with a timeless and streamlined architectural feeling. Cholet adds, "The house was designed to incorporate the architect's vision with the client's personality and their needs."

The harmony and comfort in this home reflects the easy rapport and effortless collaboration of designer and client. The first son admits, "When we saw the work of Cholet and Architect Jun, we didn't bother to go to other people. We liked their work right away and knew that we would ask them to work on our home. It took about two years, and I would talk to Cholet every day, so I got her to be the godmother of my baby."

Cholet affirms this statement. "Yes, it was so easy," she says. "I just submitted one design proposal and they agreed. I always like to mix contemporary with traditional and I added a few Chinese touches. It's important that even if there is modern furniture and lighting, the overall feeling should still be homey. I love to experiment with color and they went with it. But I didn't go too crazy, used a lot of neutrals, and added the accents. For example, there is still a lot of cream in the living room and the dining room; I chose touches of purple for the living room and aqua for the dining room. I also make sure that when I use patterns or prints, I don't overdo the layering of elements."



Well rounded. A large round dining table and a proportionally large Lazy Susan was customized for this home. Regular family gatherings are held in this space, and so a calm, serene color scheme was selected. Interior designer Cholet Antonio Ramos says, "The wallpaper and the chandelier make this room special."







RIGHT: Island life. "Now that we have this kitchen, my wife is eager to start cooking," confesses this family's eldest son, who took on the task of being the lead person on this project. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** What's for breakfast? A graphic print in a large scale becomes easier to live with when worked into a monochromatic scheme. The high ceilings and generous proportions of the kitchen demanded elements with more presence and verve.



A happy home

The family hosts many large gatherings and so the dining room and the third floor are designated as the areas for entertaining. The home theater is on the ground floor, as most meals conclude with sing-along sessions. Most of the furniture are customized to fit the family's needs. "I had to have the dining table and the lazy Susan built to specifications. There was no way I could find that large a dining table! For the foyer, I wanted a large table that echoed the details of a Chinese drum. Most of the sofas are from FurnItalia," Cholet says.

The bedrooms are actually suites, so that each family member has enough space for privacy. Cholet made sure that each bedroom and bathroom had its own unique character. All the bathroom fixtures and closets were painstakingly chosen so that each bathroom is different from the others. Cholet confesses, "I like to spend a lot of time in the bathroom, and so for my clients, I also like to make their bathroom look and feel very special. Beautiful bathrooms make a house extra special and luxurious."

"When we were growing up, we all had to watch TV together. And then every summer, my grandmother would take all the firstborn grandchildren to China. When I was a kid, I didn't really understand why, but now I know that they wanted the family to be close," confesses the first son. "So now that I am a dad, I know that I will do the same for my children."

Adherence to feng shui

The family's adherence to feng shui governed the choice of art as well as the colors. "The client did not want anything scary about the art, and all the paintings had to depict ascending images. So I commissioned a painting of the rice terraces. But the artist took liberties and imagined a garden with a view of the terraces. Even the front door had to have a geometric design with patterns that increase in size," Cholet says.

The patriarch also requested for a chandelier that resembles a pineapple, another auspicious feng shui symbol that represents abundance. Fortunately, Cholet loves going to different suppliers





TOP RIGHT: Now showing. As a family of movie buffs, the home theater is a hub of family life. "When we were young, we were not allowed to watch TV in our bedrooms. And most of our family dinners end up as karaoke nights," reveals the eldest son. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Big love. Strong colors, shapes and textures give the informal living room a lively and yet comfortable and cozy ambiance. "I love to play around with colors, and this room is one of my favorites," admits Cholet Ramos.

Be our guest. The intense teal of this room is balanced by the white shutters, and the traditional interiors. "We have a big family and that's why we built this home," says the eldest son. This room serves as the home away from home of one of their relatives based abroad. Cholet Ramos made sure that each bedroom would have its own unique character so that both the residents and their guests would feel at home, as opposed to just living in a generic space. BOTTOM: Corner property. The strong red of the chairs alludes to the homeowner's Oriental heritage, and is also a reflection of Cholet Ramos's affinity for pattern and color.

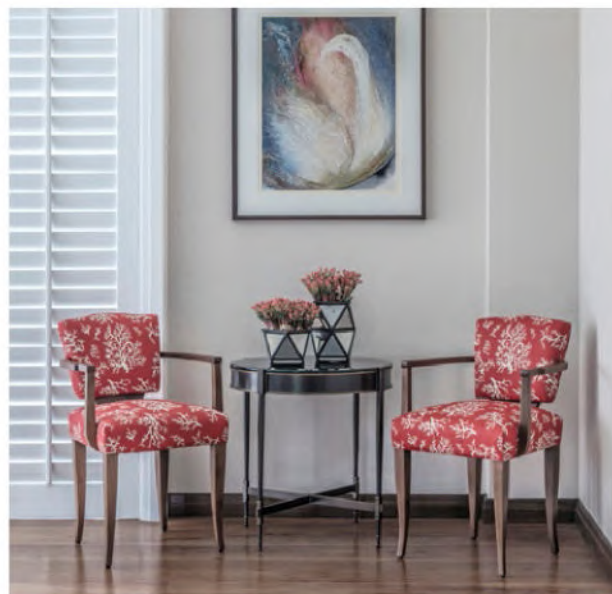


and hunting for things. So naturally she found the chandelier as specified.

The mix of textures also adds a great deal of luxury to this home. The living room has a thick, fluffy area rug and velvet upholstery. The wallpaper in the dining room has a slightly raised detail that calls to mind traditional cane weaving. Cholet made sure that the lighting fixtures and lamps are all interesting and intricately detailed.

The home is still a work in progress. Cholet is still finishing the home office, and is searching for a lighting fixture to match the scale of the living room. "But," she says, "it's really not like work. The truth is, I don't search for small accessories and finishing touches for all my clients. Usually, once the furniture and the major pieces are chosen, I can turn over to clients. And yet, for this project, when I see something that I know they will like, I get it or take a photo and show it to them. They have made my job easy."

Our team got a taste of the family's largesse and innate graciousness. The first son was late for the shoot because he wanted to buy a special *merienda* for our crew, and he insisted that we all stay and have a snack when we finished taking photos. We then understood why Cholet told us when we entered, "This is a happy home." ■



Clean and bright. The color scheme and the customized furniture pieces were inspired by ceramicist, decorator and judge of decorating reality show "Top Design" Jonathan Adler. He calls his look, "Happy Chic," and this guest room embodies that optimism and cheerfulness.





Chasing life

lifestyle  le
love your life





creative minds united in design

Dan Lichauco

Denise de Castro

Vincent Lim

Anthony Nazareno

Raffy Palma

Raymond Sih

Tanya Fricke

Wilmer Lopez

Frenjick Quesada

John Vigilia

Marga Espiritu
+ Vernice Songco

Lenora Luisa Cabili

Kitty Bunag
+ Mia de Lara

Gabby Lichauco

Liliana Manahan

Jessica Kielne +
Stephanie Kienle-
Gonzalez

Innovative Integration

ARCHITECT DAN LICHAUCO THRIVES ON PROJECTS THAT MELD TECHNOLOGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCIAL VIABILITY

BY ANNA M. ANGARA / PORTRAIT BY JOVEL LORENZO
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF DAN LICHAUCO



ABOVE: Architect Dan Lichauco, founder of Archion. BELOW: A residential project by Archion.

DAN LICHAUCO was 30 when he decided it was time to get a serious job.

He was done with studying, having earned a degree in architecture from the University of Santo Tomas, three master's degrees—Architectural Design and Theory and another in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan, and Classical Architecture and Urban Design from the University of Notre Dame. He had been an

apprentice to National Artist Leandro Locsin, and a partner at the prestigious firm of Francisco Mañosa.

In 2000 Lichauco started Archion; today it's composed of 44 urban planners, architects and interior designers. The hallmark of Archion's success, he says, is the financial viability of its projects, adding, "We're very budget conscious."

Archion's philosophy is "tell us what you want. Since we have a pool of designers we're able to do anything, anytime. Because I teach architectural history, we ensure that any historical work is done properly." Archion is now working on a modern adaptation of a traditional *Bahay-na-Bato*, featuring contemporary *ventanillas* in copper, stainless steel and aluminum. (Lichauco taught at the UST College of Architecture for 15 years, and now teaches Design at National University.)

Technology, the environment, and financial viability are at the forefront of Lichauco's projects. "For Greenfield we're looking at a building that will generate its own power, both wind and solar. It's not enough to power the entire building, but it's enough for the common areas so association dues can be reduced.

"But the bulk of what we do is hospitals and schools. Hospitals are the hardest to do, top of the pyramid. If you can do that, you can do anything." Their first foray into healthcare was Medical City in 1994. They recently completed a Medical City in Clark, and a U.S. standard hospital in Guam. They are now finishing construction of a hospital in Tacloban.

Sometimes he asks clients if they can afford to spend money on a really nice front door. "Then I go to artists like Claude Tayag, Castrillo, and Imao and ask them to design the doors. I say here's the house; it's a blank canvas, design what you want. As long as my client's happy with it then we're good. But, of course, it has to work technically as well as aesthetically." ■





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
LEFT: Archion's varied institutional and commercial projects, Ateneo School of Law, Nickel Asia Corporation office, Nickel Asia Corporation lobby, Medical City lobby.



What's your favorite design moment? When I apprenticed for Lindy Locsin, I once stood with him on the top floor of the Locsin Building along Ayala Avenue. He asked me what I thought. I said, "Wow! you can see all your work, the Mandarin, PCI Bank..." Then he said something that made a lot of sense. The design moment there was he made me aware that architecture can evoke certain emotions. It's up to the skill of the designer to play with these emotions."

What's your designer destination? The three Vs: Vicenza for Palladio, Vienna for Wagner, and Venice. After school I did a pilgrimage to these places. When I'm traveling, every time I take a photo, I'm thinking of what to tell my students about this picture.

What's your design forecast for 2015? More solar-powered or wind-driven homes, using technology that lets you control everything from your phone. It's getting cheaper to do.

Cutting-Edge Design

GOOD ARCHITECTURE CAN CREATE SPACES
THAT INDUCE POWERFUL EMOTIONS

BY DAHL BENNETT / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



Harvard-educated Architect Denise De Castro, is driven by a process of understanding and interpreting a design problem.

"I KNEW IN MY FRESHMAN YEAR that architecture would fulfill my intellectual and creative interests," says one of the country's promising young designers, Denise De Castro, principal architect of DDC architectural studio. Knowing what she wanted to be early on focused her on her studies and career until she was able to put up her own studio.

Denise graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Wellesley College in Massachusetts. In Wellesley she managed to cross enroll in selected courses at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In 2003 she took her master's degree at the Harvard School of Design.

Studying in these esteemed schools steeped Denise in the works of some of the best designers in the world. Architectural history class was held in a Paul Rudolph and Rafael Moneo-designed building. A visit to the MIT chapel exposed her to the work of Saarinen. In the Harvard campus, she had access to the Carpenter Center, acquainting her with Le Corbusier.

"All these buildings exposed me to how good architecture can create spaces that induce powerful emotions and memorable experiences as well as play an important role in a community and urban life," Denise says.

After completing her master's, Denise came home, worked under renowned architect Ed Calma and eventually did freelance work. This period allowed her to learn the ropes as an architect and entrepreneur.

In 2005 she put up her architectural studio, DDC, which are her initials. Since then her body of work has grown, covering residences, commercial establishments, museums, hotels, night clubs, and resorts.

"I don't like the word 'style,'" says Denise, when asked about her signature design. "My practice is based on process, experimen-

tation, and collaboration."

The DDC process is systematic but ultimately designed to bring out creativity in her staff and the clients she works with. It hopes to achieve a goal at every step by asking a question at every stage of design until the work is finished. Denise explains, "In my studio, my staff works with the exploratory process of understanding and interpreting the design problem before moving into the ideation process."

This process is best demonstrated in her 2013 work for Hyve, a high end night club in Bonifacio Global City. The challenge was to design a cutting-edge and visually dramatic clubbing experience for the client. Denise collaborated with talented lighting designers Alex Junca and Alex Pluquet, who experimented with LED and electroluminescent wire technologies combined with programming techniques.

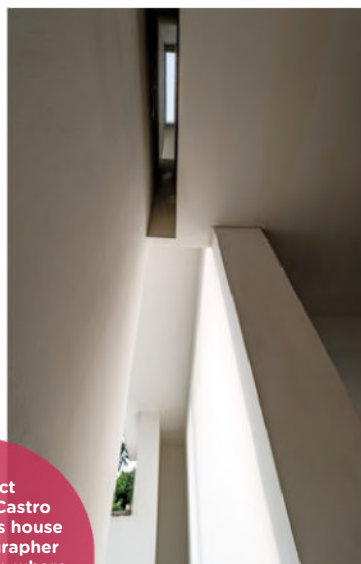
"We focused on the ability of light to create form, affect mood and, at the same time, mimic the energy of the music and the dancing partygoers," Denise says. Everything was elevated to a whole new experience as the lights hit the etched acrylic surfaces and 3D wall effects designed by Denise. Their collaboration won Bronze at the 2013 Spark Design Awards organized by *Spark Magazine*. To boot, Hyve became one of the premier night spots in the area.

With her work on Hyve, Denise proved that her success can mean the success of her clients too. This 2015 she hopes to make more impact when DDC is incorporated as DEQA Design Corporation. The former Wellesley student has not lost the focus, now enriched with the wisdom of experience. Architect Denise De Castro is fulfilling her creative and intellectual interests today in a big way. ■





Architect
Denise De Castro
designed this house
for a photographer
and his family, where
key principles
explored are of
light and form.



What is your favorite design moment?

Everyone is so design-aware now. It's a great time to be a designer.

What is your favorite designer destination?

Japan, from Tokyo to the countryside. It is the most design-conscious country in the world. Their everyday life is full of design.

What is your design forecast for the rest of 2015?

I don't follow trends, but I love seeing what color trends are in now.



LEFT:
Landscape
Architect Vincent Lim,
founder of BCL Asia
Landscape Architects.
RIGHT: Ayala Land
commissioned BCL Asia
to design the gardens
surrounding the Two
Roxas Triangle
model unit.



Creating Storied Spaces

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT VINCENT LIM LIKES ORCHESTRATING A GRADIENT OF EXPERIENCES IN THE GARDEN, SOMETHING LIKE A STORY

BY DAHL BENNETT / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG

VINCENT LIM ORIGINALLY WANTED to become an architect, but his fascination for parks and water features made him shift to landscape architecture instead.

"I love courtyards and other spaces where we can add water features or swimming pools. Aside from its cooling impact, water always creates a calming atmosphere. I like having that in our landscape projects because it invites the users to spend a bit more time outdoors."

To have people gather in that one organic space amidst towering concrete gives any landscape architect a sense of fulfillment. Having worked on the landscapes of high-end residences and with giant developer Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI),

Vincent has had many opportunities to do exactly this. Among his works, he is particularly proud of the exterior amenity space he designed for Serendra East Tower in Bonifacio Global City. "It came out just as I imagined it. It was contemporary, lush, and *maaliwalas*."

Tasteful subtlety

For every project, Vincent is keen on executing a design that is timeless and elegant. "I try to avoid simplicity, and instead to achieve tasteful subtlety. I also like orchestrating a gradient of experiences in the garden, something like a story," he expounds on his style.

A big part of who he is now as a designer,

he credits to his mentors. "They taught me how to appreciate the landscape's natural character, to be open to collaborative opportunities, to respect my profession, to become tenacious, and be a team player. They have always emphasized teamwork because all projects cannot be realized by being isolated."

Now on his tenth year in the industry, this University of the Philippines cum laude graduate and 2007 board topnotcher is ready to tell more stories through his designs and run his own team. Together with colleagues in college, he recently put up BCL Asia Landscape Architects and slowly, they are building the company's foundations through solid values.



BELOW: One of the fun design challenges that Architect Lim contended with was to use the sculptures by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, which were already existing in the park. He had to present a consideration for them, as well as intelligently incorporate them into his scheme.

Bright and cool spaces

"I have always wanted to include integrity and *malasakit* in our values. [It means] being proactive and able to reach out, compassionate and warm. It can be expressed in dealing with teammates, clients and even on the design work itself. We always try to imagine ourselves in our stakeholders' position to acquire another perspective, hence, a better understanding of the project," he shares.

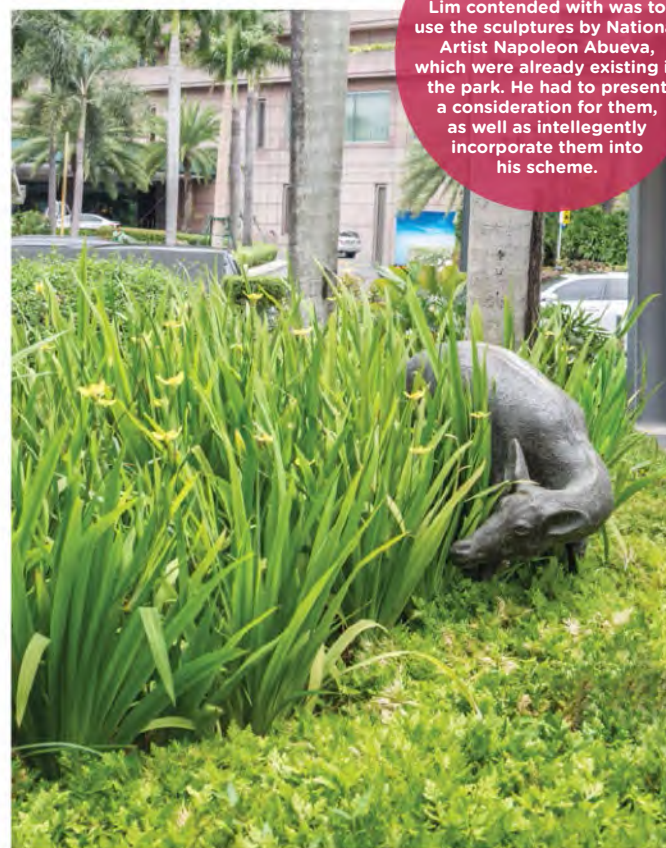
When it comes to the designs of BCL, *maaliwalas* is a term Vincent hopes to translate in the company's projects. "It has to be pleasant, non-constricting and allows you to breathe. It also means that the space is bright and cool to the eyes," he elaborates. He adds that such spaces need to be unique as well. "There's that threat of the designs looking so much alike."

As Vincent begins to establish his name in the industry through BCL, he hopes to give clients and users more than a visual 'wow.' He wants his designs to promote positive behavior and leave users with enriching experiences they can build memories on. "What makes great experiences out of the designed spaces would be the story that comes with it," he stresses. ■

What is your favorite design moment? The Renaissance. Although it is not my style, I admire its scale, elegance and how it transcends time.

What is your favorite designer destination? Paris, Milan and Bali. There's just so much to see and it leaves you inspired everytime. I love how their designs are tastefully done.

What is your forecast for the rest of 2015? Designs that are conscious of the environment, have playful colors and dimensions, and are more on the progressive side.



The Modernist's View

ARCHITECT ANTHONY NAZARENO'S CONTEMPORARY
STYLE USES INSPIRATION FROM THE TRADITIONAL.
IT IS A 'MARRIAGE' HE BELIEVES IS WORTH KEEPING

BY TESS RAYMUNDO / PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAR CONCENGCO



Architect Anthony Nazareno changes the landscape of Philippine architecture with his modern design and project innovations.

ARCHITECT ANTHONY NAZARENO is known for his modern designs and innovative solutions. He graduated from the California College of the Arts in Berkeley, San Francisco in 1991, and started his career there under well-known modernist architect Jim Jennings, who was his professor and mentor. After a couple of years, Anthony moved to New York and worked for leading firm Li-Saltzman, which specializes in the preservation and conservation of landmark buildings and architecture.

Anthony's modern design style always takes into consideration the preservation of an existing structure. In 1994, he established Nazareno Designs Group in Manila, which has expanded into Nazareno + Guerrero Architecture Design.

Just Like Marriage

As an architect, Anthony says working on a project with a client is "like a marriage," and that "there should be a good fit between the architect and the client's style. Each home that I build is a reflection of the homeowner's personality and my personality as an architect."

"Architecture is more than straight lines and perfect circles", says Nazareno. He believes that architecture is about solving issues and interpreting.

"I do not like following trends," continues Nazareno. As a designer, he believes in doing projects he likes and even setting trends with his own style. He cites a project, a home in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City, that he is truly proud of.

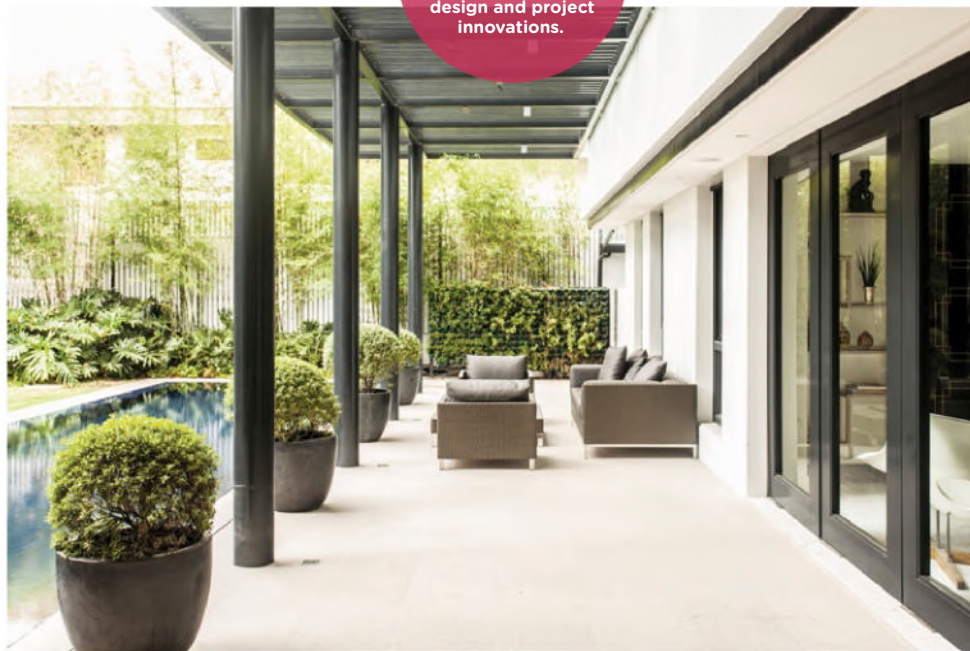
A friend bought an unpleasant looking house, and the challenge for Anthony was to completely transform the old house into a modern and beautifully designed home. In the end, Anthony not only finished a modern home but also saved the homeowner millions. Instead of totally demolishing the old house, he used the solid foundation and recreated it into what the homeowner and the neighbors truly found to be stylish and modern.

Inspired by Travels

In the Green Meadows home where we talked, Anthony said it took twelve months to transform the old house into a modern and cozy home fit for a young couple in their 30s who love to entertain family and friends. The renovated home also gave the couple's four kids a comfortable nest to play and live in.

He gets inspiration on his travels, which he loves to do with his family. Japan is his favorite destination, and he loves to visit it in November when the colors of the leaves turn from orange to red.

Anthony Nazareno certainly continues to give a modern twist to the traditional-looking homes and structures here in Manila and abroad, too. ■





The Green Meadows home designed by Architect Nazareno is a perfect sanctuary for a young couple and their four kids. It is a place where they can feel at home, have fun and entertain friends and family.



Raw Talent

RAFFY PALMA IS THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

BY LEAH PUYAT / PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAOLA ASERON



Architect Raffy Palma names the work of Seattle architect Tom Kundig and Mid-century Modernism as influences on his work.

ARCHITECT RAFFY PALMA grew up in Bacolod and studied Architecture at the University of Sto. Tomas. Yet, the idyllic, graciousness of Iloilo, and the Old World grandeur and stateliness of UST, combined to forge in him not a longing for the traditional European style, but a love for the industrial feel and cool, modern look of the midcentury style.

“I find the whole mid-century look actually quite timeless. The lines of the furniture and the open layout, and the way the windows are oriented towards the outdoors, I really love it,” Raffy says with enthusiasm and the conviction of a newly converted disciple. He also has a penchant for leaving materials just as they are. “I want the true nature of the cement to show through. I want the wood to be in its raw state as much as possible.”

But don’t get him wrong. He is not, on principle, opposed to embellishment. He relishes dramatic but still industrial-looking lighting fixtures. “I love to show off the light bulbs! I do believe that the right lighting makes a space. And that includes letting in as much natural light. Planning the doors and windows well, and allowing as much natural cross ventilation is also crucial in our climate.”

Etch A Sketch

A love for drawing drew Raffy to architecture. He started first in Fine Arts and then shifted when he realized that he wanted to do more than just draw. His talent for rendering certainly came in handy. He met his wife Ron, who specializes in designing kitchens, when they were both still at school.

Ron confesses, “My thesis adviser told me that it would be such a shame if I flunked because I had good ideas, and yet ugly drawings. Drawing is really not my thing. And

everyone in school knew that Raffy was good at drawing and that he charged a lot for his drawings. I didn’t want to risk my years of hard work just going down the drain, so I paid Raffy’s expensive drawing fees!”

As Raffy listens to this story, he smiles slyly, and admits that he never gave her back the money even after they started dating.

Elegantly Essential

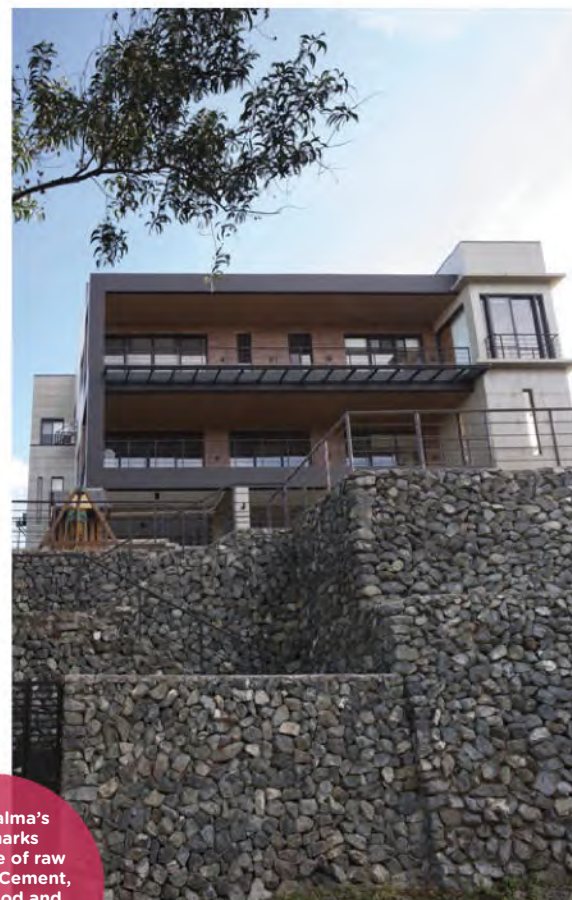
Raffy cites Seattle-based architect Tom Kundig as a major influence on his work. Kundig’s work has been described as “raw but refined” and the same could be applied to Raffy’s work. In an interview with inhabit.com, Kundig says, “Modernism at its core is a humanistic value. It’s about shelter, about culture, about equality.” This essential humanity can be sensed and seen in Raffy’s work. He thinks seriously about the lives that will be lived in his works. There is a strong industrial and urban vibe, but there is still a homeyness and an effortlessly livable quality to the houses he designs. ■

What is your favorite design moment? Mid-century. Here in the Philippines, the influence of midcentury only started to be felt in the ‘70s, so for local houses, I also like the look of the ‘70s homes.

What is your favorite design destination? I would love to see the works of Tom Kundig in Seattle.

What is your design forecast for the rest of 2015? Pieces that are raw look good, and the use of my favorite materials—cement, wood and glass—all together in one space.





Raffy Palma's trademarks are his use of raw materials. Cement, stone, wood and glass co-exist harmoniously in a Palma design.



Think Green

WHEN CHOOSING A DESIGN, THE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT MUST BE A CRITICAL FACTOR

BY DAHL BENNETT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG

A PATCH OF GREEN, no matter how modest, makes a world of difference. This connection of architecture to the living world and the environment is the passion of Architect Raymond Sih even as a young student at the University of the Philippines.

"Studying and teaching in such a verdant setting with its excellent faculty constantly reminds me that the built environment and nature can coexist. Such is the influence of the environment over people," he says.

After graduating magna cum laude and landing in the top 5 in the Licensure Exams for Architects, Raymond continued to specialize in the field of green architecture, making it his advocacy. He became an LEED-accredited professional in New York and specialized in sustainable design. His stint in the US allowed him to take courses at Columbia University and work with American architect and writer Robert AM Stern, and to practice New Urbanism and Modern Traditionalism. Ultimately, Raymond returned to his roots, giving back to his alma mater through teaching, organizing workshops and conferences on green architecture and being active in the group Green Architecture Advocacy in the Philippines.

Being environment-conscious and sustainable is translated in many of Raymond's design, starting with his earliest projects. "My first major project was the new headquarters for Belgian missionaries; I was then working with Francisco 'Bobby' Mañosa. The challenge was to renovate an old dormitory and storage building separated by a concrete driveway." The result was a U-shaped building, with the once dull driveway fully transformed into a courtyard where the celebration for the new building was held. "After that, I got hooked on seeing



Arch. Raymond Sih is also a professor in the UP School of Architecture. BELOW: One of the principles of green building that he used in his wife's bridal atelier, which he designed, was to recycle vintage finds as accent pieces such as these millinery irons (LEFT) and his grandmother's old shoe lasts and accessories.





Arch. Raymond Sih designed his wife Vanessa's fashion studio. LED lights were used in keeping with his zeal for green design.

people enjoying themselves in the places I helped to create.”

As a sustainable design consultant for different projects, Raymond is consistently searching for spaces and solutions where he can put a stamp of the elusive green seal. In the last five years he has taken pride in his work for the Asian Development Bank Third Atrium Expansion in Mandaluyong City, the Conrad Manila in Pasay City, both of which are registered with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System with a certification goal of Gold. One of his current projects is a sustainable four-level mixed use building in San Juan City that is designed to recycle waste water for flushing, irrigation, and cleaning, a feature, Raymond says, that used to be limited to larger more complex buildings. “Green building technologies can be adapted for smaller developments and here’s a building that proves it,” he adds.

Being a green architect in a country “where people have very short memories” is where the challenge lies for the profession, says Raymond, who has been in practice for 14 years now. “When choosing a design, the impact on the environment is forgotten. When confronted with the rising cost of materials, the durability of the structure is forgotten. When faced with a deadline, the quality of workmanship is forgotten. Remembering, reminding, and resolving the fundamental reasons for building is one of the greatest responsibilities of any construction professional.”

Raymond is confident that for every design problem, there is an opportunity to practice green architecture. “I look at my daughter and imagine what kind of a world she will grow up in,” he says. “There is so much more that can be done to improve the built environment, and that inspires me to do more.” ■

Design Smarts

What is your favorite design moment?

The inception of vernacular architecture, or an architecture without professional architects. It is when a culture intuitively adopts or develops a sound architectural idea as its own. Local examples include the Filipino *Bahay na Bato*, the Ethnic Chinese Shop House, or the Colonial Bungalow.

What is your favorite designer destination?

Rome for its classical architecture. It is one of the few cities where different buildings from different times still coexist side by side.

What is your design forecast for the rest of 2015?

Environmentally conscious design is definitely here to stay; it is just a matter of time.

Authentic Design

USE YOUR INSTINCTS TO ACHIEVE
THE HOME YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED

BY CAL TAVERA / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG

IT IS EVIDENT that the residence of design consultant Tania Fricke Lichauco does not prescribe to the generic principles of style. Taking the helm of her family home's renovation resulted to a painless interpretation of traditional design with a twist. Tania says, "There are no strict rules these days. It is more of gut and what you think looks great. Spaces should be less contrived and have a more natural flow."

Working under pressure

The move from their home to this 440-sq.m. high rise went smoothly, consuming only one month for planning and three months of construction. Tania reveals, "We

did not have the luxury of taking our time. We received a good offer for the previous home and had to move quickly although I have to admit, I work better under pressure. The creative juices seem to kick in nearer to the deadline."

Aside from this skill, Tania and her family are veterans when it comes to relocating, jet setting from Boston to San Francisco and to about ten homes around Manila alone. Tania says, "Because of these experiences, I learned to adjust to various spaces and timelines. When I knew we were moving, I studied the floor plan and immediately tagged the pieces we were keeping and items we were going to leave behind."

For their home, Tania decided on an eclectic theme with a more traditional background and gravitated towards wallpaper, gold and the classic pieces, but she can relate to the other styles her clients prefer. "I try my best to make the home as personal as possible for my clients," she says. "I can render a beautiful home with whatever budget they throw at me. One of my skill sets is knowing how to put all the things together so it won't look like a hodge-podge."

Legendary lineage

Tania's been beautifying homes professionally for only four years, but she was creating special spaces for her friends long before 2011. She recalls, "When I helped my friends with their own homes, they were pleased with the outcome and encouraged me to do it as a profession, but my schedule was hectic working with my mother at Artemis. When I turned 40, the idea became a reality. I was offered my first real project for a home in White Plains Village. The client hardly knew me but trusted me wholeheartedly, and projects have been offered ever since."

While Tania never had formal design training, she received her lessons in style from the day she came into this world. Influenced by her great-grandmother Rosario Luz, a pioneer in Interior Design and mother of National Artist Arturo Luz, and conceived by Esperanza "Babygirl" Fricke of Artemis, this pedigree set the design bar high at an early age. Tania says, "My mother would show pictures of my great-grandmother's work in the '50s, and I feel she was a true visionary, conceptualizing designs ahead of her time. We are exposed to these same designs in the retro-inspired homes today."

For design, Tania advises, "It has to be authentic—nothing studied or copied from magazines. It is about instinct. Instead of hiring someone who will make your home beautiful but with a design that leaves you feeling uncomfortable, do what makes you happy and work with someone who can help you achieve the home that you've always wanted." ■



Tania Fricke-Lichauco is the great-granddaughter of pioneering interior designer Rosario Luz. She began her career by helping her friends who encouraged her to pursue the interior design business.



Tania had a tight timeline of one month for planning and three months for execution of her current home. She believes in designing from instinct in order to spell out what works for a client.



What is your favorite design moment?

I veer toward neo-classical architecture. For interiors, I have always been a traditionalist combining glam and luxe elements such as velvet and silk fabric with collected objets d' art and found pieces from travels abroad.

What is your favorite designer destination?

Prague has always been a city I've wanted to visit- It's actually top of my list- architecture is magnificent. I would love to see the old world charm and feel like I'm stepping back in time. Hanoi and Barcelona are top of my dream destinations as well. San Francisco is an all-time favorite city because I lived in a Victorian home and up to this day, I am still fascinated with how timeless it is.

What is your design forecast for the rest of 2015?

Every design space should reflect the personality and style of whoever is using it. I believe that there are no rules in design for as long as it works and makes sense both aesthetically and practically.

The Art of Keeping It Real

WHEN AESTHETICS MEET FUNCTION AND COMFORT

BY RAPH KIEFER / PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES



Wilmer Lopez is the man behind the cult favorite for furniture and home goods, Space Encounters.

IN THE AGE OF INFORMATION, ideas and trends change as quickly as the seasons do. For veteran Interior Designer and furniture maker Wilmer Lopez, however, finding the balance among diverse philosophies of design allows him to think outside the box while staying grounded with the basic foundation of a great piece of work. These fundamentals are rooted in fine craftsmanship and attention to detail.

At work the creative process begins with establishing a clear story between the client and himself. Wilmer will enter a new space with an open mind. “It starts at getting to know the space and then trying to understand the soul or the essence of the space, which usually includes the client’s vision. From there, I try to translate it to a more concrete idea. The projects change, but the process remains the same. Listen closely. Tell a story. This is the secret to every project I am doing,” Wilmer shares.

A passion for creating furniture

In 2009, Space Encounters was established in the Ortigas business district to sharpen his passion for creating furniture. The store that he calls “my playground” is one of the more popular destinations in the metro for unique accessories, Scandinavian-inspired design, accents and conversation pieces for the home. Clients who want to customize their pieces may have them made. Wilmer adds, “I am very partial to the source of material. I start from what is available, preserve what is existing, and try to create something from materials or objects dismissed as useless.”

Wilmer’s self-professed love for industrial, midcentury design and all that is natural is evident in his work. Aesthetics must meet function and comfort. He makes

no qualms about what he thinks is wrong with today’s trends: “I hate fake and pretentious designs that just ride on trends. I don’t like abusing colors and materials making the design look overly done and staged.”

With 22 years of accumulated wisdom in the design industry, Wilmer Lopez attributes his source of inspiration to experience itself. “As long as there is a need to create,” he says, “I will be there. Design will always be a part of me.”

It’s the art of keeping it real. ■

What is your favorite design moment? I love the ‘50s. It has a very classic vibe and it is timeless, and therefore still relevant today. The furniture, the architecture, the color and the design—everything is well thought out and intelligently conceived. The midcentury pieces, for example, are an achievement in comfort. The chairs designed in that era are unmatched when it comes to aesthetics and ergonomics.

What is your best recommended designer destination? That’s easy—Stockholm, Copenhagen and Seoul. They all have a distinct culture where design is a *way of life*. It’s not luxury, but something that is seen in their daily lives, regardless of status in society.

What is your design forecast for the rest of 2015? I think and I hope it will be a year where we will see more “honest” designs, meaning more refined and with more attention to craftsmanship rather being trendy in terms of color and form. I hope I see more respect to the art of furniture making. I also think that design of retail outlets, restaurants and lifestyle stores will become more adventurous.





RIGHT AND BELOW: *Boring Objects*, the latest collection for Space Encounters, was also recently launched by Lopez. It casts everyday objects such as hangers and clothes pins as colorful graphics on accent cushions and wallpaper, playfully coaxing its audience to take a second look at ordinary things.



TOP AND ABOVE: For Wilmer Lopez, a project that was recently completed is Hole in the Wall, the food court for Century City Mall, where he infused his signature industrial style. Here, he worked with each vendor to create a specific look that matches his cuisine.

From Starck to Finish

INSPIRED BY THE WHIMSY OF PHILIPPE STARCK, FRENJICK QUESADA MOVED ON FROM WORKING AS A CPA TO BECOMING AN INTERIOR DESIGNER

BY DAHL BENNETT / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



Design HQ's Frenjick Quesada shifted gears from a corporate job, for a creative pursuit in the field of interior design.

SHIFTING CAREERS in the middle of a promising one is probably one of the toughest choices one can make in life. Interior designer and CPA Frenjick Quesada did exactly just that 15 years ago, giving up a corporate job after realizing that designing is what he really wanted to do. Since then, the local design industry has been a tad more colorful.

In 2001, along with design partner Chako Hirayama, Frenjick put up Design Hirayama + Quesada, better known as Design HQ. Today it is one of the country's most sought out design firms.

"Philippe Starck was the first rock star designer that captivated me," recalls Frenjick of one of his earliest influences in the industry. "His whimsy, forward-looking and cutting-edge design made it a joy to start exploring the design world."

As a fledgling designer, Frenjick described himself as a "sponge" trying to absorb everything there was to know about the field until he found his voice. "My personal style has been much like my travels, diverse and contrasting. I started loving the clean lines of Bauhaus and the quirk of Starck and, through my practice, explored a variety of styles, from recreating a *Bahay na Bato* to designing a modernist club with abstracted geometric forms. I am challenged by the variety of design styles rather than just specializing in one. As a result my personal style is a mix and match of different eras, combining them in unexpected ways."

A better designer

Together with Hirayama, Quesada's voice is one of the most listened to in the industry and one of its strengths is embracing collaboration with co-designers and clients. "I am a better designer because of collaboration. In bigger scale projects, the success of the interior depends heavily on working well together," says Frenjick. Design HQ collaborates heavily with top developers like Ayala

Land Inc. and Robinsons on top of its roster of residential and commercial clients.

Apart from his work, Frenjick, a PSID board topnotcher, teaches at his alma mater, guiding young designers who may come after him or with whom he may work with in the future. At his firm, he tries to lead by example and teaches the team beyond the technicalities of the business. "Early in a young designer's career, an emphasis is solid work ethic, a clear understanding of one's personal creative process, and proper interpersonal etiquette. With a very competitive design world nowadays, I think clients value this, and it affects with whom they choose to work," he advises.

Frenjick knows whereof he speaks as he finds these exact values rewarding him today. For its newest project, Aquaboracay, Design HQ is collaborating with no less than Yoo Design founded by Philippe Starck. It's another great reminder that Frenjick has made the right shift after all, and with Yoo Design in the picture, this realization is sweeter this time around. "It's starting to come full circle now," Frenjick concludes. ■

What is your favorite design moment? Art Deco, which was visionary for its time. It is linear, glamorous and nostalgic.

What is your favorite designer destination? Barcelona for its beautiful architecture and as a city that celebrates life... with siestas!

What is your design forecast for the rest of 2015? Interesting metallic—copper and gold—in a variety of finishes and polish, and in matte and rustic.





This house, designed by Frenjick Quesada, embodies his personal style, which he describes as “diverse and contrasting,” as it merges traditional furnishings and contemporary structures.



On the Right Track

THE DESIGN WORLD IS OPEN TO JOHN VIGILIA'S
BRAND OF DARING INSPIRATIONS

BY DAHL BENNETT / PHOTOGRAPHS BY OCS ALVAREZ



AFTER WORKING FOR SIX YEARS for Budji+Royal Design, owned by accomplished designers Budji Layug and Royal Pineda, interior designer John Vigilia knew he was ready to make it on his own. He was determined to put up his own firm and did so in the most unconventional way.

Wanting to save on rent cost, John converted his bedroom into an office. In time, the space proved to be inversely proportional to his goals of growing his business. "The last straw was when a prospective client asked me where I hold office. I felt a lack of professionalism, not that it's wrong to have a home office, but mine is a bedroom office!" he exclaims.

Today this promising young designer, who graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines, meets his clients with better ease at his new office, John Vigilia Interior Design, in Cubao Expo. "Good thing

I also took up accounting, so I was able to calculate the expenses needed to put up an office," he says. He also has his own workshop for designing his own pieces.

On top of residences and establishments, John's major works include designing for The Residences at Greenbelt and Forbeswoode Heights condominiums in Bonifacio Global City.

Creative freedom

On his first year as principal, John realized the value of creative freedom. He likes using modern lines juxtaposed with traditional elements. "A mix of old and new, straight and curvy, fine and textured, a study of contrasts that looks well put together," he elaborates. He likes telling stories through his work but gives this caveat, "Not every piece in a room must have a story or it would be like a crowd talking at the same time."

His tastes also lean on clean designs, which he says is a result of his frustration with his home as a young boy. "Our house was so cluttered. We were hoarders," he jests but adds that it was also his exposure at home that developed his flair for decorating. "I would sometimes clean the house together with the house help and change some of the arrangements, not knowing I was already decorating. My mother also loved going through vintage stores and thrift shops and I would go with her on those trips. We still have those items, and I sometimes use them as props for shoots."

As he continues to grow his young design business, John keeps his adventurous and unconventional spirit intact and open to everything for inspiration, from a person's clothes and a plant shop to a detail of a building.

One day, he says, he hopes to design a space for an artist. "I would love to get into their twisted minds and see what designs would come out of that collaboration."

John is certainly on the right track—his kind of daring and openness is the kind that the design world is looking for. ■



ABOVE: Promising young designer John Vigilia.
BELOW: To transform an otherwise plain bedroom, John made use of a vintage bookshelf wall detail.



What is your favorite design moment? The period of the Bauhaus movement and the Art Deco style; they elevated applied arts to the status of fine arts.

What is your best recommended designer destination? Vintage shops as they offer a window to the past. Right now, there is nothing original anymore because everything has been thought of and made before. So now I tend to look into the past for inspiration and make those elements work in the present and for the future.

What is your design forecast for the rest of 2015? I see more sustainable materials being used in construction and design. Thinking green offers a wise and practical way of living, and it will be in the minds of people more and more in the coming years.

Bungalow 300

A SHOP WHERE ALL ELEMENTS
OF A WELL CURATED HOME COME TOGETHER

BY LEAH PUYAT / PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAR CONCENGCO



Young homemakers turned shop owners Vernice Songco and Marga Espiritu also design select items for their shop, Bungalow 300.

IN THE EARLY 2000S, Amy Sacco revolutionized night life in New York by conceptualizing and actually opening Bungalow 8. Named after an actual bungalow in Beverly Hills, it was known as the hangout of everyone worth knowing, and was name-dropped in pop culture signifiers such as the television show *Gossip Girl* and the novel *Everyone Worth Knowing* by Lauren Weisberger, the former assistant to Anna Wintour turned chick-lit best-selling author of *Devil Wears Prada*. A big part of Bungalow 8's appeal is that it got the right crowd in the right setting.

Marga Espiritu and Vernice Songco were able to achieve the same kind of exclusivity and desirability with none of the snootiness or arrogance.

As young homemakers themselves, they just wanted to create a shop that offered a space where all elements of a well curated home could come together. Bungalow 300 started by hosting limited edition pop-ups that were by invitation only.

They captured the polished but casual, put-together but not matchy-matchy look that people starting to decorate their homes in the 2010s loved and wanted to recreate as well. They chose furniture, throw pillows, home accessories and art from Silverlens Gallery to create vignettes that people just wanted to move into and call their very own. They now have a permanent shop and hope to have an even bigger concept store.

One post on their Facebook page is very telling of their partnership and process. It reads: "We lovingly put together a handpicked selection of vintage English tea sets, crystal stemware from the Czech republic and silver plated English tea pots." This post shows that Marga and Vernice function completely as one unit, and a text or an email to them will always begin with "we." And on a deeper level, the word 'lovingly' best captures how much time, effort and thought go into sourcing and setting up a covetable, and relatable design mix. ■





Enjoying a renaissance in the local gifts and houseware scene, Bungalow 300 carries items from homegrown talent, but it is their own collection of scatter cushions and furniture that satiate a growing clientele.

What is your favorite design era? Mid-century modern design, but what is even more fascinating is the Bauhaus movement, which started shortly after World War I. Bauhaus was actually an art school in Germany, founded by Walter Gropius and by Mies Van der Rohe, which brought together architecture, fine arts and crafts, including furniture, ceramics and textiles. It led to a design style that still has profound influence beyond its era and beyond its borders.

What is your favorite design destination? Germany would be ground zero for us, Berlin having the Bauhaus archive. It's a must-visit for anyone who has a passion for modern

design and architecture. You can spend countless hours learning about the Bauhaus movement and philosophy in the Bauhaus embodiment, the Le Corbusier-designed museum in the middle of the city. California is good for mid-century lovers as well, as it was the home base for Charles and Ray Eames, and Eero Saarinen and Harry Bertoia are also well represented in the Golden State. Mies Van der Rohe also designed several houses in California.

What is your design forecast for the rest of 2015? The movement towards supporting homegrown local artists and designers will continue to remain strong. The same goes for the attraction towards vintage and handcrafted pieces.



Homage to Home

PRESERVING CENTURIES OF CULTURE IN STYLE

BY CAL TAVERA / PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO

"HE WHO DOES NOT KNOW how to look back at where he came from will never get to his destination."

It is probably this quote from our National Hero Jose Rizal that articulated best the birth of Filip+Inna, a clothing line inspired by our indigenous tribes for the present-day. Founder and Creative Director Lenora Luisa "Len" Cabili seems to agree, crediting her childhood years spent in Mindanao and her experiences dancing in the Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company. Len shares, "Every Christmas was an event

and the theme was always traditional. One year we would honor the Maranaos by wearing their clothing, another year we would celebrate dressed up in *terno*." Dancing in the *Bayanihan* further enhanced her exposure to the national costumes. She recalls back then how some of the traditional outfits they performed in would blend with the casual pair of denim jeans but did not take steps towards the idea. As she got older and the timing was right, she further romanticized it. The company's progress has been organic, cumulative and therein lies its appeal.

Evolution

Since 2010, Filip+Inna has evolved and has come to represent an increasing number of indigenous tribes. From its humble beginnings and a single tribe in Iligan (her hometown), it has now branched out to include other artisans from Bukidnon to Davao. She admits this is the same process applied to her designs. "I prefer to add things than create them from the onset. It's very personal and a lot of research and thought goes into it from my part and the artisans. It is a true collaboration. We have to work within the confines of their indigenous patterns and skills but that's the fun part." The brand is a playful mix of the new and old but what propels it is that they are produced from noble materials and they have been worked on by fine craftsmen. In the office, Len takes out some contemporary denim shorts filled with traditional patterns in several colors, a modern take on an indigenous design but there is nothing incongruous about the combination. What speaks volumes is the great fit, artistry and quality. These are part of the checklist she upholds for her brand after working with a shoe designer in New York in 2006. Through this stint, Len was able to tap into the mindset of a discerning consumer.

More Beginnings

Filip+Inna made its mark through a cold call to Indagare, a bespoke travel agency based in New York. Three weeks later, thirty-

five pieces were shipped and made its debut in a trunkshow at the Hamptons. This July, the company will be part of the Aerin Lauder trunkshow. Its line of trays and home accessories are available online from shoplatitude.com, where one can "shop the world and flaunt [his/her] wheres." Len admits she is fortunate to have the opportunities and chalks it up to the perfect timing. She was about to throw in the towel when the world suddenly became more receptive and appreciative towards her items. Aside from the timing, she advises designers to look to the past and to embrace their individuality because everyone is unique. She shares, "I often get asked where I get my inspiration from. It is from my own memories growing up. People can have similar backgrounds but perceptions still vary. People can be looking at the same fabric but their interpretation of application will differ so always be authentic. It is a matter of creating something and calling it your own. That is what the world is looking for now." ■

What is your favorite design

moment? Contemporary Design is not bridled to one particular aesthetic but is constantly changing and picks up from different eras—I always like to intertwine the old with the new.

What is your favorite design destina-

tion? New York is one place where you find an amazing confluence of works be it in fashion, design or art.

What is your forecast for the rest

of 2015? Artisanal is a compelling movement and people are appreciating the work of the hands and the personal stories behind it.



Lenora Luisa Cabili designs the chic Filip + Inna line of clothes, accessories and homeware.





Len Cabili's home and work space are true to her passionate zeal for Philippine ornamentation and clothing.



Accessories and small furniture pieces made by local tribes populate every nook in Len's environment.



'The Everyday Ordinary'

MIA DE LARA AND KITTY BUNAG'S DESIGNS BRING OUT BEAUTY IN THE MOST ORDINARY THINGS

BY REDILYN DIMAANDAL / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY MURIEL VEGA-PEREZ ASSISTED BY MARY ANN SY



Craftsmith Living's stylists extraordinaire Mia de Lara and Kitty Bunag.

IT ALL STARTED when Craftsmith Living creators Mia de Lara and Kitty Bunag were tasked to work on an interior design project together. They were sent to a province in Indonesia to source for furniture and accessories. For them, it was such a humbling sight to see hundreds of hardworking, disciplined Indonesians in the factories. Right after that trip, they both realized that they were destined for more than what they were currently doing.

"It was like a calling we needed to follow. When we decided to collaborate and share with others the things we love to make, we felt peace that transcends all understanding. So here we are," says Mia. "We'd like to think Craftsmith is our playground, a space where we create freely and unbound by rules."

Craftsmith Living is a concept store born out of love for a simple, honest, down to earth approach to design. Each product on their shelves has a story to tell. Most of them are handmade together with the other well curated, artisanal and utility objects, furniture and art that all help to promote simple, everyday living.

Mia and Kitty's designs are mostly inspired by "the everyday ordinary." They thrive on bringing out the beauty of the most ordinary things and hope to inspire others with what they see. The duo distinctly play around with different materials, color palettes, textures and the art of layering. For these promising interior designers, it's about breaking the basic rules of styling beautifully and thoughtfully.

The girls' favorite piece from their collection is the metal utility scissors as, for them, it speaks volume. It also happens to be their logo. They explain, "It represents our love for everything that's slowly made by hand." ■

What is your preferred design era? Our preferences always change but we find ourselves gravitating towards designs influenced by the post war era, when people had to simplify their lives. We find ourselves more and more inclined to designing backwards as we remake things that are long forgotten like postcards, aprons, poetry and literature on tea towels and gift wrappers. Old school is what others might call it, but for us, it is living simply and consciously away from the urgency and momentum of modern day living. It's the same with our furniture, we are drawn to pieces that would stand the test of time and born out of functional aesthetic.

What is your favorite designer destination? We are nomads, we find inspiration everywhere. There's really nothing methodical about our process, we create as our hearts lead us. Oftentimes, we find ourselves gravitating towards various Nordic design influences and lifestyle.

What is your designer forecast for the rest of 2015? We are looking towards sustainable, relaxed and casual designs filled with heart and soul, using mostly artisanal, organic, raw, and natural materials.



“Unstyled” style is showcased in these vignettes at the Craftsmith Living shop. Oftentimes, they find themselves gravitating towards various Nordic design influences.



Collaborative Culmination

AFTER VARIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, GABBY LICHAUCO UNITES DESIGNERS IN THE NEW FOLK COLLECTIVE

BY MARISSA ALEJANDRO-LOPA / PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAR CONCENGCO



Gabby Lichauro is the creative force behind OpenStudio and The New Folk Collective.

GABBY LICHAUCO has come a long way from being one of Benilde's first BS Industrial Design graduates in 1993. After a short distraction that almost led him to a life in high finance, he came back strong and focused on a master's degree in Industrial Design from Scuola Politecnica di Design in Milan. He established OpenStudio in 2005, which, he describes, is a multidisciplinary design practice, creating space and everyday objects by combining references and studies from art, architecture, interior, industrial and manufacturing.

In recent years, Gabby has been invited to participate in the Singapore Design week under IFFS wherein he was given free rein to invite other Filipino designers and manufacturers to show their best. He came up with an experimental platform called "New Folk Collective" which featured a new generation or group of designers and their tabletop accessories. Rita Nazarenos of S.C Vizcarra, Lilliana Manahan, Schema, Wataru Sakuma, Triboa Bay, Tisha de Borja of E. Murio were among the select chosen few who were up to challenge. To give a better edge and appreciation, the presentation was placed in the design area rather than on the trade floors. It was very well received and has brought to light the creative talent of the Filipino.

He has since been asked to collaborate on a product development with the insouciantly

cool studio NENDO of Oki Sato for Industry+ of Singapore.

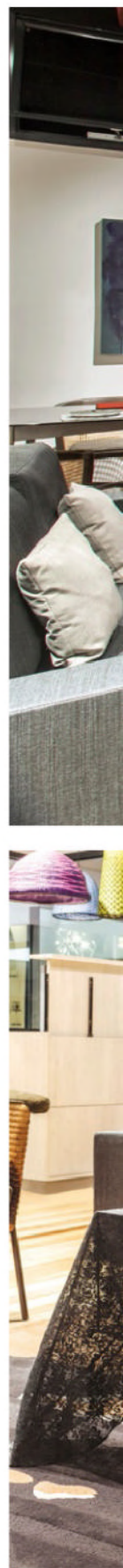
Traveling for inspiration and mingling among like minds is how Gabby keeps the creative juices flowing and staying present in the scene.

Last October 2014, Gabby and partners opened OpenHouse at the LRI building on Nicanor Garcia St. Makati City, a one-stop shop for furniture, home accessories, art and space solutions. Modular designs for both home and office taken a notch higher with handsome designs for more efficient space coupled with custom made or specially designed accessories by other notable local designers are among the unique features of the shop.

There is still so much this designer dreams of doing both here and abroad. Right now, collaborating with other designers is what excites him. The Milan show is on his mind. Yet he is anchored here by his strong belief in emerging local talent in the versatility and breadth of local materials and sees a long future for him here at home. ■

What is your preferred design era? Mid century, Memphis Post modernism

What is your designer forecast for the rest of 2015? Worldwide appreciation in emerging talent in Asia





OpenStudio is a one-stop shop for handsome modular furniture solutions, home accessories, art and space solutions.



Top O' The Morning

LILIANA MANAHAN'S WORK IS A MULTISENSORY EXPERIENCE, EVEN FOR A BREAKFAST SETTING

BY GABY ALEGRE / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF LILIANA MANAHAN

Liliana Manahan is the young creative director behind Studio Magee, where a menagerie of playful beasts are created as home accessories.

IT'S A LITTLE AFTER 9 in the morning and Liliana Manahan, creative director of her own Studio Magee, is in the dining room of her home, setting the breakfast table.

"When I was asked to do a vignette—all I knew was that it's gotta have food!" Liliana exclaims. It's the first time that she's put all her pieces together in such a space, and she says, "I had to go all out!" In a table set for one, Manahan put together a dream breakfast—decadent, delicious, and a delight to the senses.

Sense and sensibility

The result is a multisensory experience. Liliana's brass Merchickens are chickens resting atop slabs of local block of *ipil* and a bespoke handpainted ostrich egg (a remnant from her Omelette collection) sit amidst ceramic majolica ducks and a colorful teapot, while her pastel animal candleholders co-exist with traditional silver candlesticks from her grandmother's stores. She playfully pairs the old with the new, juxtaposing her creations with found pieces—The Nog in rose and teal, water jugs, the Dino Foot Clip, and plates and cups from her Biscuits collection—to create a table setting that is her own.

"When I designed the plates and the cups, I had a certain eating experience in mind; when I eat, having things that trigger other senses adds to the eating experience (like having an interesting cup!) and allows me to enjoy it more," she says. The food is intended to be the centerpiece of the setting—four quail eggs dot the plate (crafted by Liliana) alongside golden brown waffles, a dollop of whipped cream, and topped by a

truffle, plus a cupful of strawberries, orange slices, and a red egg on the side. But in this table set for one, she crafted a whimsical menagerie out of her creations—decadent, delicious, and a feast for the senses.

Liliana sees her work the way a chef crafts a dish—with "thought behind each bite," put into texture and flavor. Films, music, and food inspire her as well as her surroundings. She says, "Always start with an accent piece," and craft your surroundings to complement it.

In designing her table setting, Liliana shares one tip: "Always start with accent piece/s, in this case, my animals," then it all flows freely from there, each piece playfully placed. "I appreciate the way things are put together," she says.

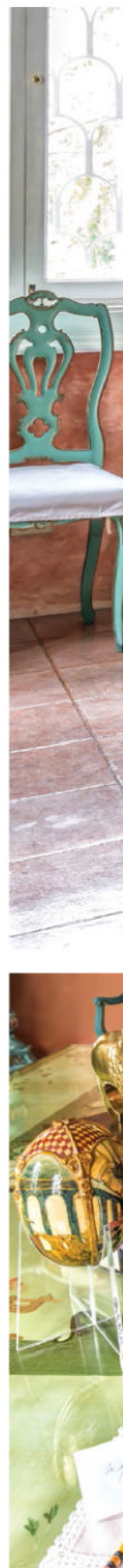
Moving forward

Asked about a dream project, she says, "A small restaurant—I want to design everything from the cutlery and interiors to the lighting! And work with the chef to make the food match the plates! It's really about the experience."

"I'm still finding where I can excel, and what I'm comfortable with. It takes time—but it's fun," Liliana says.

Apart from heading her own studio, exhibiting in Manila FAME, and being part of the Red Box program, she says, "I want to stay here and work... traveling was fun, but I wasn't able to really sit down and work. I want to concentrate on home accessories and tabletop décor."

The days ahead look bright for Liliana Manahan. There's no doubt that she's set a place for herself at the table. ■





A breakfast setting is created by Lilliana Manahan using the serveware and accessories that she designed. On them, her dream breakfast of waffles topped with whipped cream, bacon and truffles, accompanied by quail eggs sunny side-up. A bowl of strawberries and a salty red egg add to the feast.



Phase Forward

STEPHANIE AND JESSICA KIENTLE BRING IN
A FRESH CREATIVE DIRECTION TO PHILUX

BY RAPHAEL KIEFER / PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO



IT IS EVERY PARENT'S GOAL to pass on a stable business to their children. And yet, a lifetime of dedication to building one up is no guarantee that the next generation will pick it up. Given the individual nature of people, many decide to carve out their own unique paths and follow their own dreams. Still, there are those who choose to continue the original vision and try to make it better.

Philippine Luxury or Philux has been in the furniture and interior design business since 1980. Built by Max Kientle and his wife, the first Philux showroom opened in SM North Edsa in 1997. With such a long company history that began before daughters and heir apparent(s) Stephanie and Jessica were born, the question now is "What's next?"

"We're just getting started," Stephanie and Jessica say with a confidence that surely comes from a lifetime of 'training' and exposure to the industry. Stephanie, the older of the sisters, is in charge of the administrative work of the company.

"We are the phase forward," says Jessica, when asked about where they think they stand at the moment. Jessica, who has been 'formally' with the company for three years, is credited with bringing in a fresh creative direction. The

sisters spend most of their days together, and their teamwork is evident in making sure that their stores and factory are running properly.

"We get along great and have a common goal we want to reach," they say. That goal is to keep growing both as a brand and as a company, design relevant furniture, expand to the provinces and perhaps go back to exports, which was the companies' original mandate.

The young sisters have brought a new spark of inspiration and fresh ideas into a company built out of passion. "Our dads' business style was experiential. He had a vision and the rest was learned through actual hard work."

"The company culture," Stephanie asserts. "...is not really talked about much, but it is probably the most important aspect of a business. Philux is a company that puts high value on good service and high quality products, but we are also a family and that will never go away. We represent the evolution of Philux."

Philux proudly manufactures its products, created by Filipino craftsmen, in the Philippines. Jessica and Stephanie were not asked to do this. "We're doing this by choice," quips Jessica.

Quite obviously, the passion has been passed on. ■



From classic to transitional, Philux has proven to be one of the industry's go-to resources for furniture.

What is your favorite design moment?

Seeing a new furniture design in a Philux showroom is my favorite design moment because I understand the time and team behind the piece—from conceptualization to prototype, it is a tedious process but is rewarding when it comes out right. Seeing our pieces appreciated by our valued team and clients is what we strive for.

What is your most recommended designer destination?

Anywhere that inspires you. My favorite design destinations are Paris for its history and culture, New York for a feast of the senses.

What is your design forecast for the rest of 2015? Mid-century lines with a Filipino touch.



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PABLO ANTONIO, JR. Design Icon

DRIVEN BY PASSION FOR HIS WORK, HE LIVES UP TO
THE FAMILY TRADITION FOR EXCELLENCE

BY ANNA M. ANGARA / PORTRAIT BY JAR CONCENGCO



Pablo Antonio, Jr. is one of the three sons of National Artist for architecture Pablo Antonio.

“I’D LIKE TO MAKE my late father proud of me. That’s the legacy I want to leave,” says Architect Pablo Antonio, Jr.

It’s in the blood, as they say. The three sons of National Artist for Architecture Pablo Antonio are all successful architects: Pablo Antonio, Jr. (“Jun”), Ramon and Chito. Eldest son Jun, who worked at his father’s firm after graduating with a degree in Architecture from the University of Santo Tomas, took over the practice when his father passed away. Today, at age 75, he shows no signs of slowing down, still at the helm of Pablo Antonio, Jr. Design Consultancy. He works with five of his seven children: two are architects, two are interior designers, and one manages the business.

On his father’s 25th death anniversary, Jun Antonio and his father received a recognition award for their preservation of the Art Deco buildings in the Far Eastern University campus. The FEU campus is considered the largest group of surviving Art Deco architecture in Manila. FEU has commissioned Jun Antonio to build more structures for the campus. He says, “The new buildings that we constructed also followed that same design. Although you have modern touches like glass, we minimized the use of concrete.”

He is most recognized for his Mediterranean style houses, notably the home of Pedro and Gina Roxas, and the Kasiyahan development on McKinley Road, Makati. He is proud of the latter, claiming, “I didn’t cut a single tree.” He built fewer units so the houses could have bigger gardens. He also worked with the firm of I.M. Pei on the Essensa towers in Fort Bonifacio, and is known for the renovation and expansion of Makati Medical Center.

“I think I reached my peak when we were doing semi-conductors. I kept it a secret and nobody knew. But we did 40 from 1979. You know how we got that project? From a tennis game,” he recalls. These may not be the most recognizable of his works, but he claims that this one contract for a semi-conductor plant in Baguio opened many doors for him. After this first big project, he said, “We didn’t have to look for clients, they just came.”

He explains that back in the day you usually came by work through word of mouth. His advice to young designers, starting with his children: “You have to use a little PR to get projects.” A smart appearance and respectful demeanor can’t hurt when impressing future clients, and adds, “But I would say a lot of it is luck, timing, and contacts. And you have to adjust with the times.”

But the No. 1 criteria for success, Jun Antonio says, is “to have a passion for your work. I always tell my children: ‘If you don’t have the passion, don’t become architects or interior designers. *Walang mangyayari* if you’re mediocre.’” ■





ABOVE:
Texas
Instruments
Campus. BELOW:
The Asian
Hospital.





ABOVE:
Far Eastern
University main
building. BELOW:
Telus call center.





Makati
Medical Center
expansion and
renovation.

JOSEPHINE ‘OPAT’ LABRADOR-HERMANO The Original

WITH HER INHERENT FLAIR, PASSION AND HARD WORK,
JOSEPHINE “OPAT” LABRADOR-HERMANO GAVE US
THE PHILIPPINES’ FIRST SHELTER PUBLICATION

BY ANNA M. ROSETE / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY MAIKE SOGUECO / STAGED BY RACHY CUNA

TO PRACTICE INTERIOR DESIGN as a career is one thing. To put in the hard work in the name of the field’s proliferation with the public’s interest and education in mind is another. The latter requires the sort of dedication and commitment required for nation building. It takes a solid team of experts to tell a proper story of the Philippines’ design culture and history, and most of all, to keep an audience sufficiently satiated so that they are empowered to think, appreciate and grow.

Josephine “Opat” Labrador-Hermano took on the gigantic task as publisher when there was a void in the local magazine industry. In the late ‘80s, she acquired the rights to *Design and Architecture* (*D & A*) magazine from Jackie Cancio Vega. It was a pioneering publication, the

first of Filipino shelter magazines, as we now know them.

“*D & A* was the original in the brand category of glossy publications at that time,” says legendary PR consultant Toots Tolentino. “It was a time when there were fewer contenders on the stands. *Metro* and *Lifestyle Asia* led the lifestyle categories, and *Mega*, for fashion,” he continues.

From CPA to Publisher

“It was purely passion and hard work. [We strived] to bring to the readers a broad perspective of interior design, architecture, art and heritage,” Opat says of her collaboration with *D & A* editor-in-chief Sylvia Rocas-Montilla and editorial board members Architect Augusto Villalon, Ramon Villegas and Edong Lazatin.

A certified public accountant, Opat attended Georgetown University for post-graduate studies in Economics. But, she says, “I didn’t pursue it. It wasn’t me.” After she gave birth to her second child, she pursued her formal training in interior design from the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID).

“[Back then,] there were a handful of respected names I looked up to as mentors, Lor Calma, Ched Berenguer Topacio, Edith Oliveros, Edong Lazatin, and Nena Villanueva. Membership into the PIID then was by invitation. This was way before the time of the grandfather clause... They gave me a heartening welcome,” she recalls of her initiation into the esteemed inner circle of local interior design. Armed with this education and the network to tap, she was all set for her role as publisher of *Design and Architecture*.

Far-reaching Impact

For a decade, *Design and Architecture* enjoyed a loyal following. “The first time I read a copy of *Design and Architecture* in the ‘90s, I was blown away—it was literally a who’s who of industry greats producing the magazine. Leo Almeria styled the homes, Toti Villalon wrote and edited, and Rachy Cuna made the



For interior designer and publisher Josephine “Opat” Labrador-Hermano, style should be infused into all aspects of one’s life, from fashion to the home.



LEFT: A dramatic medley of old and new: against a postmodern backdrop, an overscaled antique mirror rests. Atop a lit alabaster coffee table, a limited edition Andy Warhol print of John Lennon and Yoko Ono. The Gabby Barredo chair rounds up this space with a metallic finish.



ABOVE: Beyond her renowned dining area is a Mario de Rivera painting. A chandelier with ormolu ornamentation crowns the space where she displays paintings of her grandchildren which are the pieces she truly holds dear. BELOW: In her dining room, a rare Manansala landscape holds court above an early American buffet. In the background, a clock from Heacock's which was part of Opat's wedding trossseau.



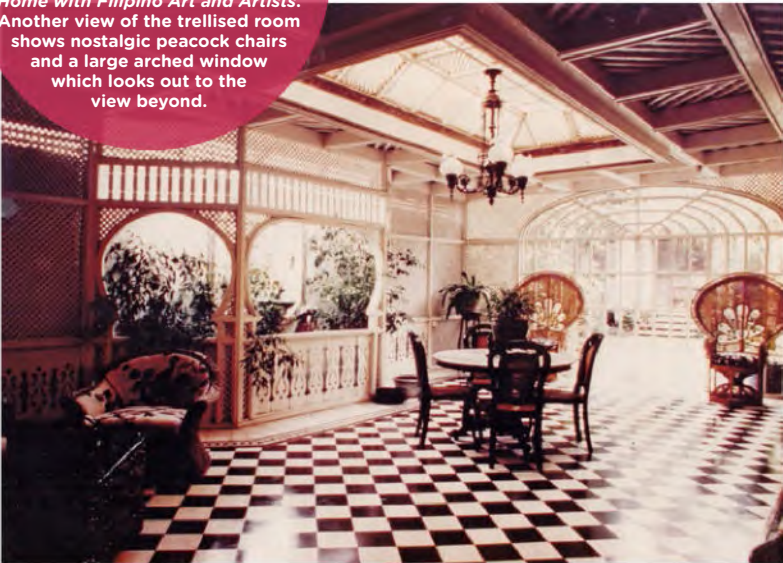
ABOVE: Covers of *Design and Architecture* Magazine. BELOW: A collection of books on her interests, along with those that she, close friends and family members wrote.





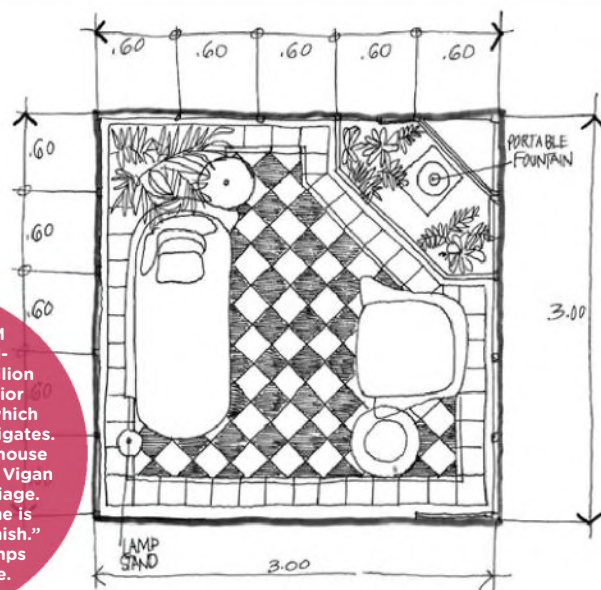
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Trellised walls, filigreed wood cut-outs and black and white tiles render a distinctly Victorian air in the Vigan home Opat designed. Two coffee table books which Opat authored, *Lamesa: The Filipino Table* and *At Home with Filipino Art and Artists*. Another view of the trellised room shows nostalgic peacock chairs and a large arched window which looks out to the view beyond.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JOSEPHINE LABRADOR-HERMANO





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: A hand-drawn plan of the pavilion exhibited for an interior design in Malaysia in which Opat was one of the delegates. In the courtyard in the house that she designed in the Vigan style is an antique carriage. The loggia in this home is finished in "Boracay finish." Reproduction gas lamps illuminate the space.



floral arrangements. So many noteworthy artists and designers were often packed in one issue! And when I finally met Tita Opat at an exhibit ten years ago I was in awe. All the shelter and design magazines today wouldn't have existed if it wasn't for her," says Rachelle Medina, editor-in-chief of *Real Living Magazine*.

The magazine's impact was far reaching. Many of the names in today's shelter magazines were first recognized by this groundbreaking publication through its Guhit Awards. "*Design and Architecture* was a forum that linked architects and designers to the public as a media vehicle. It represented what Filipino creativity stimulated in environmental and spatial interfaces long before the computer culture came about. Being part of *Design and Architecture*, and having been a recipient of the 2000 award will always be a treasure to keep," Architect Joey Yupangco of Joey Yupangco + Associati, now Dean of the School of Design and Arts at the De La Salle College of St. Benilde, says.

Her published contributions to interior design, art and culture culminated with *La Mesa: The Filipino Table*, which she co-authored with Reynaldo Gamboa Alejandro. It won the Manila Critics Circle and National Book Awards in the art category in 1999. In 2001, *La Mesa* was followed by *At Home with Filipino Art and Artists*, a coffee table book that was a collaboration between her and her daughter, Mara.

Unparalleled Style

Her story illustrates that there are no set formulas for a career path, nor is there a switch for good taste that one can turn on when needed, for Opat possesses an inherent style that is unparalleled.

"I have no design philosophy. I think that [an] interior designer should live his/her passion in his/her environment, not only in the homes that they design," she says. "The art that I collect... is not for investment. Most of the artists whose works I like have become my good friends since the '80s—Lao Lian Ben, Mario de Rivera, the late Dean Hony Fernandez, sculptors Pablo Mahinay and Impy Pilapil... of course, Albert Avellana, who introduced me to them. I've had these for thirty, forty years," she reminisces.

Likewise, in the homes that she designed and lived in, a delicate balance between harmony and tension, old and new is the norm. "From the Vigan house to [my current] postmodern home, there is always an element of surprise. I don't design with whatever is new out there. It took years to collect the elements in my space. There always has to be drama, and that, you can't quite explain how to achieve," she says. ■

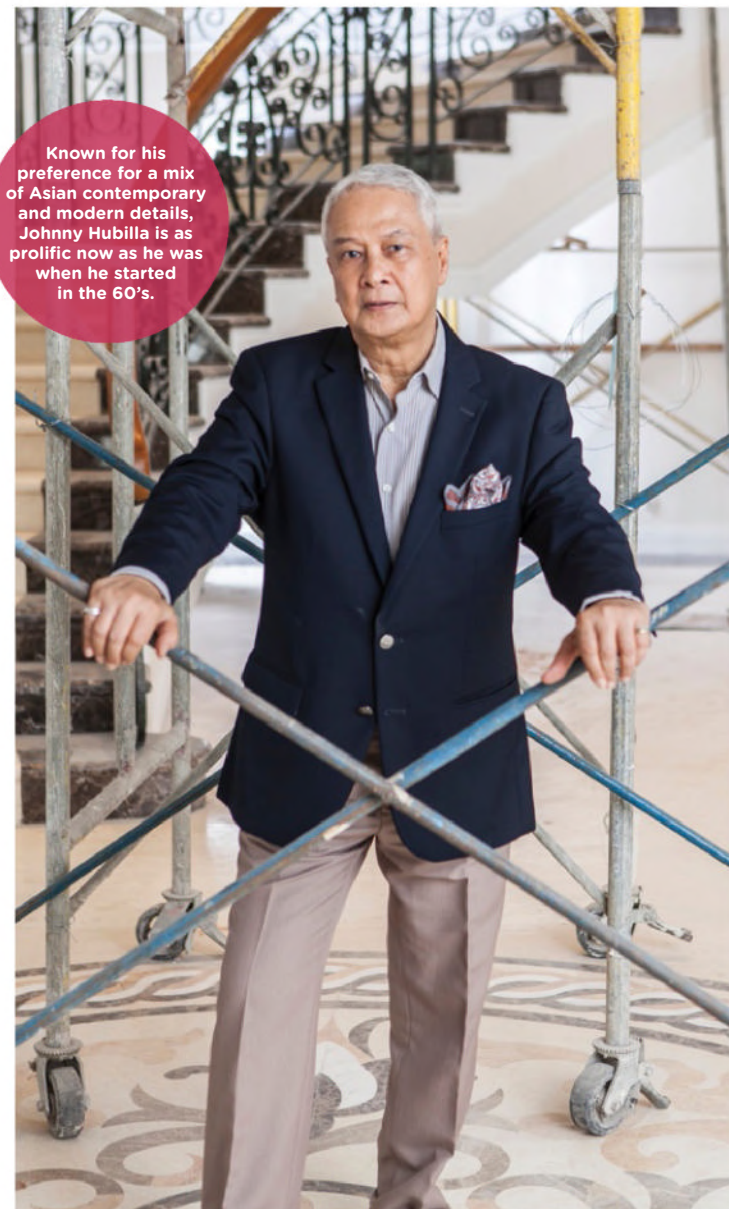


JOHNNY HUBILLA

Design pioneer

AN ECLECTIC APPROACH AND ADVOCACY FOR THE USE OF LOCAL MATERIALS RENDER HIS WORK TIMELESS

BY CES RODRIGUEZ / PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAR CONCENGCO



Known for his preference for a mix of Asian contemporary and modern details, Johnny Hubilla is as prolific now as he was when he started in the 60's.

THEY DON'T MAKE HOMES like this anymore. Not a French Classical home with a pool in an enclosed conservatory, a bar on one end, wrought iron balconies on the second floor overlooking the area, which can be fully air conditioned for the family's special occasions.

Homes like this don't exist anymore. Not one with a chandelier in the foyer with a cupola above it.

And certainly not one that's still in construction, hogging a floor area of 1,300 square meters, ensconced in a subdivision that's just two spits away from the most congested stretch of the city.

And a house as epic as this needs an equally epic overseer, one that makes architectural bucket lists come true with affectionate indulgence but with the rigor and polish attained through years, nay decades, of practice.

Yes, at 74, Philippine interior design pioneer Johnny Hubilla is still at it, the consummate professional cobbling grand confections, but boldly juxtaposing the eclecticism his heart desires even in this, his latest project. The wet bar at the end of the pool is shaping up to be modern and minimal, warmed by a palette of brown and tan.

"I have always preferred an eclectic style or approach to projects. I think that having a mixed approach to design, will not limit you to a certain period in time," he told *Metro Home*. In fact, he notes, "some design styles from my time are actually back again."

Some of those styles are apparent in his 1965 rendering of a woman's apartment and living room, the latter winning him first prize in the design competition of the Philippine Institute of Interior Design that same year.

In 1968, three years after he graduated, he worked as the assistant to Interior Designer Scolard Maas of the Welton Becket design firm from Los Angeles, helping design the old Manila Hilton on U.N. Avenue (now the Waterfront Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino.)

That gig led him to design the Philippine pavilions in trade expositions in Bangkok, Toronto, and Spokane. The projects brought to fore the importance of bringing in indigenous materials and sensibilities to modern design that would pique the interest of and appeal to a global audience.

Indeed, Hubilla is partial to "a mix of Asian contemporary and modern details." It's evident in his home, where dark exposed beams contrast with the formal classicism of his living room, and in a table-scape featuring an antique *gasera* repurposed into an electric lamp surrounded by photographs in gilt rococo frames.

"As an interior designer from my time, I think we all were pushing for the use of our local materials and products found here in the Philippines," he said.





ABOVE: An office Hubilla designed in the '80's is brazenly decked in all-white finery, save for a few pops of black rendered in the furniture. BELOW LEFT: In the '70's, Hubilla designed this master bedroom, which displays the era's penchant for the bold and the fun. Note the carpet that cascades up as the bed frame finish. BELOW RIGHT: Also designed in the '70's, Hubilla embraces Asian flair in this Japanese house.





RIGHT: A residential project from the '80's exhibits the popularity of the country style during the period. Bold floral prints and pastel colors soften the use of dark wood in this space. BELOW RIGHT: Hubilla designed this vignette for Puyat Furniture in the '70s. BELOW: Indeed, Hubilla is partial to "a mix of Asian contemporary and modern details." It's evident in this home, where an antique *gasera* repurposed into an electric lamp ties in seamlessly with the country style of his interiors.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: In this recent project, Hubilla illustrates his mastery of design styles that go with the times. The living room in this condo project displays a streamlined look that is currently in vogue. **RIGHT:** The interior of Patio Esperanza was executed in the '80s, showing the decade's fondness for the use of dark and heavy wood. **LEFT:** A sophisticated use of vermillion upholstery livens up the minimal palette in this 2013 condo project.



While his interior design work captured the zeitgeist of each decade—the playboy swagger of his master bedroom in the 70s, the use of indoor greenery in an office in the 80s, and the severity of minimalism in the early years of the new millennium—there's always a local element juxtaposed: an old wooden table in lieu of an office desk, the sway and voluptuous hue of a conch shell-turned-lamp as the odd bit out of an efficient but comfortable condo unit awash in taupe, white, and black.

In spite of the eclecticism he has always championed and stayed true to, and no matter his declarations that he is proud of every project he has ever worked on, he admits that his true legacy may lie in the unsexier side of the practice.

"My colleagues and I think that our most significant contribution to our field would be lobbying for the approval of the Senate and House of Representatives Republic Act No. 8534, The Philippine Interior Design Act of 1998," he said. "The recognition of the practice of interior design by the Professional Regulation Commission."

He is also proud that the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers, founded in 1964, "has come a long way, with its growth in members and achievements, giving international recognition to local designers, local manufacturers and their respective products." In fact, he sees The PIID's membership into the Asia Pacific Space Designers Alliance and the International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers in the 1980s as "historic."

If Hubilla is invested in the larger legacy it's because he and his whole family remain active practitioners, working as the Hubilla Design Group. Wife Nonette is an architect, as is his eldest son Carlos. His second son Antonio is an interior design consultant, while Franco his youngest is a softscape/hardscape designer.

And that is why Hubilla himself doesn't see the French Classical home he is now working on as his last project. In fact, he's got a pretty big entry on his bucket list he has yet to tick off.

"Actually I still have a dream project in mind," he discloses. "A private island residence. Dressing it up with a mixed tropical style. Designing it with lots of open spaces using our own homegrown materials. Using our local wood species with bamboo, a nipa roof, coconut shells, capiz mother of pearl details and local fabrics to help soften the spaces. A showcase of Philippine products and materials we can all be proud of." ■

FRANCISCO MAÑOSA

Bullishly Nationalistic

HE BROUGHT MODERN FILIPINO ARCHITECTURE INTO FRUITION

BY DODO DAYAO / PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF ARCH. FRANCISCO MAÑOSA

YOU WOULDN'T THINK IT at first but music was Francisco Mañosa's first passion. A self-taught pianist, his passion burned with such ferocity he was determined to make it his life. Fate, of course, had other plans. This little bit of seemingly apocryphal trivia starts to make sense once you become acquainted with what he eventually made of his life instead, once you see how that creative fire found new ways to burn. And chances are, all of us, at some point, have become acquainted with his work.

You probably know Francisco Mañosa more by his nickname "Bobby." But the Mañosa name bears its own pedigree in the world of Philippine design and architecture. More vital than the trophies and the renown, his work has exerted an immediate and tangible presence in the everyday lives of Filipinos throughout the years. His works include the first LRT station, the EDSA Shrine, the Moonwalk Church in Las Piñas, the Ateneo Rockwell Center, the Medical City building, the San Miguel offices in Pasig, and the Coconut Palace, quite possibly his most iconic work.

Functional sobriety

There is a functional sobriety to Mañosa's work, a classicism and rigor that aspires to the timeless, and achieves it, tempered by a sense of beauty, of playfulness, of, shall we say, musicality. But there is, more crucially, a striving for the endemic at the core of his aesthetic, one could almost call it bullishly nationalistic, a reflection of his love of country and of its culture.

In many ways this impetus to make Philippine architecture for Filipinos is a reaction to how more and more Filipinos have been co-opting foreign designs for their homes, to how mongrelized we have become as a culture, not just architecturally. But it has become more than a mere strategic imperative for Mañosa, but pretty much the philosophical bedrock on which he would build and fortify his, and his company's, aesthetic.

The humble nipa hut, the *bahay kubo* celebrated in folk song, indigenous to the Philippines in the way many designs are indigenous to their country of origin, would be Mañosa's prototype inspiration, an organic structure that nevertheless seems conceived with a deliberate architectural discipline out of how it factors in the climate and environment and culture that surrounds and impacts it, and how it endures and persists in all its simplicity more than several centuries later. Mañosa saw a certain elegance and perfection in it. He also saw the future.

Loftier vision

To claim, though, that he merely modernized the *bahay kubo* may be a bit reductive. Mañosa is credited no less for bringing modern Filipino architecture into fruition, and this is mostly because modernizing the *bahay kubo* was not so much an end for him but a point of departure.



Author of
Filipino Modern
Architecture,
Architect Francisco
"Bobby" Mañosa.

His vision was loftier, more holistic than a mere fusion of materials, and even now that his company is under the aegis of his children, it remains in the grip of this vision, this evolutionary step from one endemism to another, a vision of architecture as a means of upholding and reinforcing a distinct cultural sensibility, a sensibility he believed wholeheartedly was and is ready for the world and second to none. His fidelity to this vision was such that he would turn down projects that refused to align with this. He doesn't regret any of it.

His most famous creation, the Coconut Palace, may well be the perfect distillation of this vision, but it is nonetheless apparent in everything he has done and everything his company still does—architecture hewn from an artist's soul and a patriot's heart. ■



The Pearl
Farm Resort
in Davao.





CLOCKWISE
FROM LEFT: The
San Miguel Building,
Ortigas. The Coconut
Palace. Lanao
Capitol Building.



JORGE RAMOS A Pillar in Philippine Architecture

HIS WORK ON ICONIC LANDMARKS HAS WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME

BY WILFRED MARBELLA / PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JORGE RAMOS



Architect
Jorge Ramos,
legendary for his
institutional projects
such as the Heart
Center and the
Lung Center.

JORGE RAMOS is one of the pillars of Philippine architecture. Iconic as his name is, it is only matched by his equally iconic landmarks in the Philippine landscape. He helped create a contemporary Manila of sophistication, one that was envisioned for colored postcards, vivid and vibrant.

Jorge Ramos' name will forever be linked to buildings like the Philippine Heart Center, the Kidney Center, the Lung Center, Children's Hospital, and the GSIS Museum. The one thing about Jorge Ramos' buildings is his consciousness of what is important: the people who will occupy the building *and* nature, the environment. Hand in hand, these two elements make a piece of architecture succeed.

Nature has always played an important role when it comes to his buildings. The idea of healing can only be aided by nature. I remember taking out my mom for wheelchair "strolls" along the corridor of the Heart Center, away from the nurses' station and straight to the corridor overlooking the tree-lined parking space of the hospital. This soothing "landscape" was such a welcome respite from the four walls of the hospital. The Philippine Heart Center, the Lung Center, the Kidney Center—every one of them has an atrium, and this expanse of green is present in a Jorge Ramos design.

In the '80s, when the word "green" meant just a color, Ramos was bestowed the Passive Solar Design Award in the World's Fair for his work on the GSIS Building. It recognized his use of the terraced structure (an "ode" to the Banaue rice terraces, apparently a happy coincidence) that maximizes wind circulation, light reflectivity, and created shades for comfort through creative positioning of the building. Who would have thought that 20-30 years hence, it would be a global trend?

Now in the 21st century, Jorge Ramos still looms large in Philippine architecture. He is the Philippine counterpart of the Japanese firm building Discovery Primea.

After seeing the initial design, Ramos elucidated to the Japanese architects that in the Philippines, the family is a community unto itself. Except for personal spaces, we live in one great open space; the Philippines is a tropical country, after all. We also need areas for "hoarding" as well as for the house help. All these must have been new to the Japanese architects. But with Architect Ramos' wisdom, they are on their way to creating the right living space for Filipinos.

Now in his 70s, this pillar of an architect has truly stood the test of time. ■





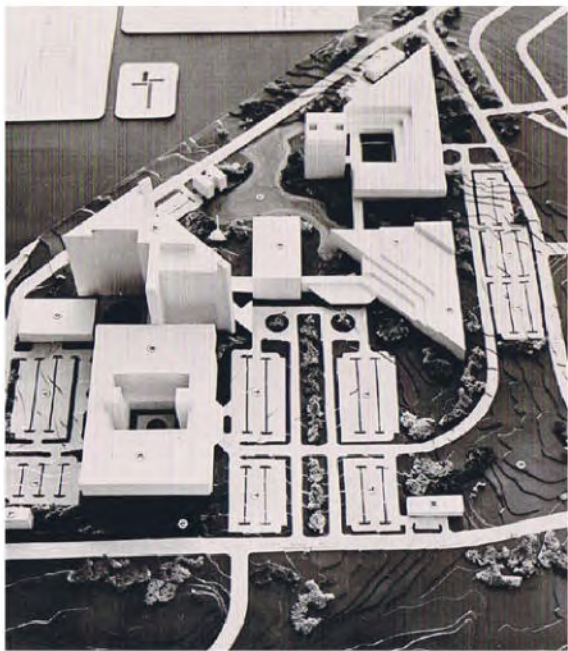
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The Concept Hotel. Proposed National Sports Complex, Roxas Boulevard. Architect Jorge Ramos with his patron, former governor of Manila Imelda Marcos, showing his proposed housing scheme for Tondo.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
Rendering of proposed Discovery Primea Building on Ayala Avenue. Rendering of proposed condotel in Istanbul. Concept Hotel.

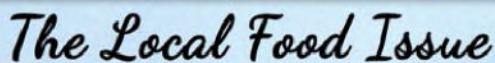




**CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP LEFT:**
Scale model of the
proposed Philippine
Medical Center, UP Campus.
Rendering of proposed
office building. Proposed
Oil Center, Ayala Avenue.
Proposed office building,
Salcedo Village,
Makati.



ABOVE:
Architect Jorge
Ramos' legendary for
his institutional projects
such as the Heart Center
and the Lung Center.
Proposed National
Sports Complex,
Roxas Boulevard

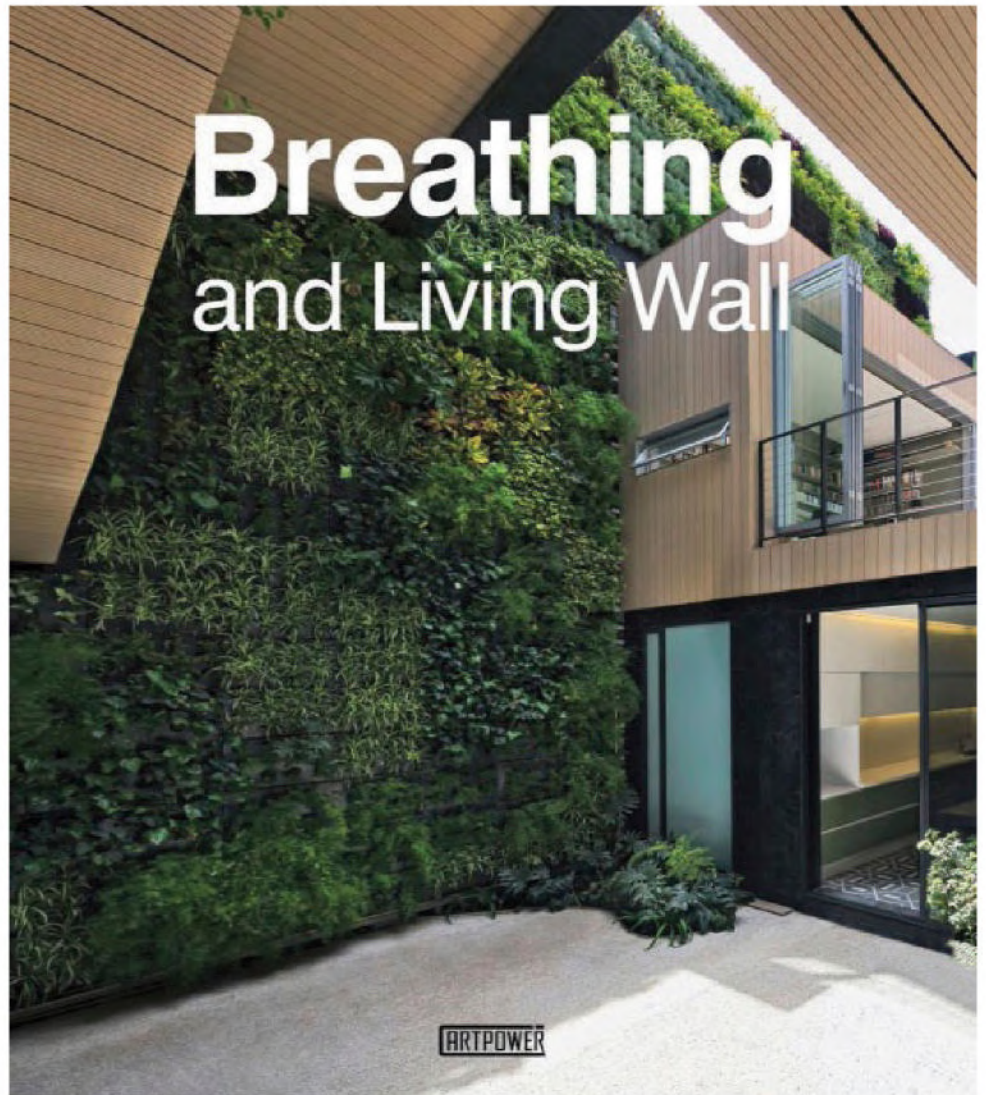
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gardens

Wall of Life

Thanks to the innovative and creative minds of urban planners and designers around the world, Mother Nature finds her place in the concrete jungle. The book *Breathing and Living Wall* by Weng Danzhi inspires us with wonderful examples of Plant Walls (also known as Green Walls) installed in different places such as airports, hotels, conference centers, sitting rooms, and gardens. Available at National Book Store. P2,795. -Anzenne Roble



ART OF THE VESSEL

The Kamala Bird Bath is an open invitation to feathered friends. Its bowl is glazed in a beautiful turquoise shade, mimicking bodies of water. Its matte black exterior finish makes for a chic, zen-inspired vessel. Available in Crate and Barrel, 4th level of SM Mega Fashion Hall, tel. no. 942 0761; Crate and Barrel, 3rd floor of SM Aura Premier, tel. no. 893 4255; Instagram: @crateandbarrelph



CRAFTSMANSHIP FOR THE OUTDOORS

Named after Kish's first store manager, Nina Santamaria, this Santamaria piece serves as a stool and a container. Inspired by the elaborate craftsmanship of the Tingkop baskets of Palawan, its functionality and intricate weaving are at par with the original. From earth tones to colorful pastels, this is a perfect piece to add to your outdoor haven. Available at Kish, 233 Nicanor Garcia, Makati, or visit www.kish.ph.



Garden Reboot

TRUSTED GARDEN
SUPPLIERS FIND
A NEW HOME

BY JONALYN ESTRELLA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG

An array of cacti, succulents, hanging plants and more give this space a wondrous touch of quiet.



MOST ENTREPRENEURIAL ENDEAVORS are made through months or even years of planning and preparation, but that wasn't the case for Cedarhills Garden Center. Formerly known as Green 2000 Garden Center, Cedarhills claims to be the product of sweet serendipity.

Owned by Mrs. Katherine Ang-Tan, Cedarhills opened March of last year as your go-to place for anything and everything garden-related. "We have indoor and outdoor plants, gardening tools and accessories, irrigation systems, greenhouses and accessories, pots, potting

media, fertilizers, basically everything you need in gardening," says Gerald Sioco, Marketing and Communications Director/Gardening Trainer at Cedarhills.

"We used to be located inside Manila Seedling Bank since year 2000. After the untoward incident with the Quezon City Hall and land rights owner, we were evicted and transferred to Mother Ignacia Street, also in Quezon City," Sioco recalls. After several attempts at finding a new home, they signed a contract for their new place and continued holding their head up high for better things to come





CLOCKWISE:
Rich greens serve as eye candy for those who wander around the store. Fashionable succulents in abundance. Gardening tools and must-haves are available for the eager gardener.



their way.

“The name Cedarhills reminds us of having a paradise here in the heart of the metro,” says Sioco. “We wanted to show urban dwellers that even with a small space, they can enjoy the beauty and therapeutic benefits that a garden brings. Not only have we created a paradise in the heart of the metro, we also have an advocacy to teach organic urban gardening to anyone who is interested to bring a piece of paradise into their homes.”

Upon entering the store, you see neatly arranged rows of plants and water fountains, adding a tranquil garden aura.

“People come here for the plants, the experience and, most especially, the people. Every time you visit us, you learn a thing or two about Mother Earth.” ■

Cedarhills Garden Center is located at 57 Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City. You can also reach their Customer Service Hotline at 0907-ORGANIC. Visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cedarhillsgardencenter>

Often associated with Feng Shui, the Fortune Plant is said to bring good luck to one's home if the plant blooms in his/her care.





Rows of plants are neatly arranged adding a tranquil garden aura.

Indoor Versatility

3 INDOOR PLANTS, WHERE TO STORE AND HOW TO CARE FOR THEM

INDOOR PLANTS are nothing short of versatile. Not only do they provide clean and fresh air for the home, they also add an effortless touch of beauty and style as well.

Succulents are all the rage in indoor gardening, in particular, *Stetsonia Coryne*. Water the succulents only when the soil is dried out. The **Nairobi Oval Planter from Crate and Barrel** works as a great container for the bigger kinds of succulents since its low sculptural profile showcases the quaint beauty of this delicate plant. (**Nairobi Oval Planter, P4,079, Crate and Barrel**)

Fortune plants (*Dracaena fragrans*) are typically used as a focal point in a room. Water thoroughly but avoid getting water on the trunk so the stem won't rot. **Slant Planters from Crate and Barrel** can be used as a container that adds a contemporary statement to your space. (**Slant Planter, Tall P3,959, Short P3,019, Crate and Barrel**)

Elephant ears (*Colocasia*) are named after the shape and size of—what else—elephant's ears! Water them 2-3 times a week and bring them outside every once in a while so the leaves won't turn a yellowish color. Add a natural finish to your space with the **Tidore Planters from Crate and Barrel**. (**Tidore Planter, 27.5" P4,409, 24" P3,429, 16" P3,439, Crate and Barrel**)



Green Diet

NEXT TO THE CEDAR HILLS GARDEN CENTER, A CAFÉ SERVES HEALTHY JUICES, SWEETS AND SAVORIES

BY JONALYN ESTRELLA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG

“HILLSIDE IS A FAMILY BUSINESS, run by me and my cousins since we’re all into health and wellness,” says co-owner Noelle Hidalgo. “We are vegetarians and we see wellness as a lifestyle. We eat organic or all-natural food, and even the products we use are organic and natural.”

It’s no secret that organic eats are all the rage nowadays, most especially with those who want to embrace the healthy lifestyle. “We cater to people who want to be fit and kick start a better lifestyle. We give the option of providing clean and healthy foods for them because it’s hard to find the really good ones,” says Noelle.

Known for their cold-pressed, detox juices – Hillside only uses cold press juicers which are the kind that produce hydraulic pressure and doesn’t generate as much heat, unlike the traditional centrifugal juicer. When there’s no heat, it means no nutrition is lost from the drink.

Hillside’s Grilled Chicken is considered one of their signature dishes. Two helpings of grilled chicken breasts are bathed in their homemade marinara sauce with a side of basil brown rice and mixed greens in a citrus vinaigrette. The vinaigrette complements the neutral greens and rounds up the entire meal.

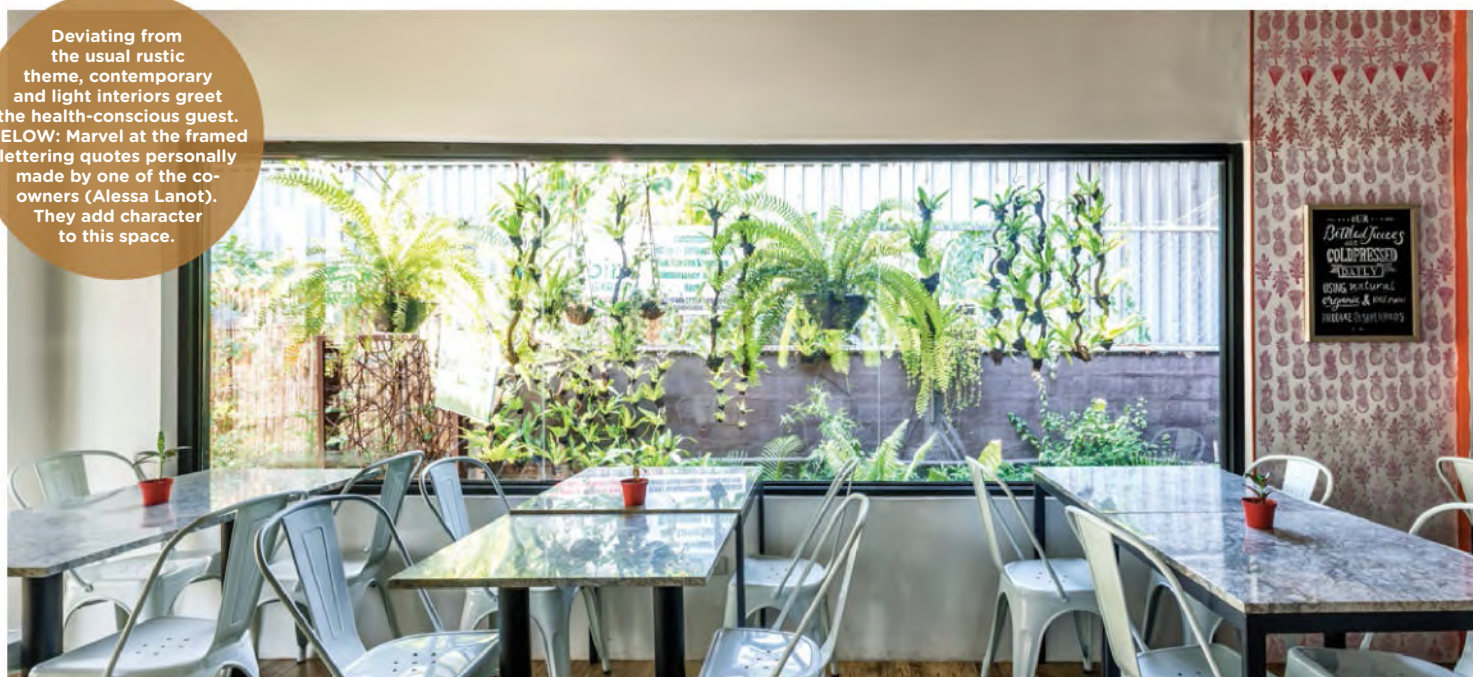
Another signature dish is the Tofu Teriyaki, which uses non-GMO tofu (non-genetically modified) that has been slathered with homemade sweet and salty teriyaki sauce and topped with sesame seeds. It is served with a side of fresh cabbage infused with sesame oil and ginger brown rice.

For those who have a sweet tooth, Hillside also offers an array of delectable and guiltless treats. The raw chocolate mousse is not cooked or baked. This dairy-free and refined sugar-free treat is a surefire way you can indulge in



A wall of lush greens and a huge initial of an “H” provide Hillside Café + Juice Bar a distinct identity that is truly their own.

Deviating from the usual rustic theme, contemporary and light interiors greet the health-conscious guest. **BELOW:** Marvel at the framed lettering quotes personally made by one of the co-owners (Alessa Lanot). They add character to this space.



ABOVE: Two helpings of grilled chicken breasts bathed in their homemade marinara sauce, a side of basil brown rice, neutral greens mixed in a bright citrus vinaigrette ranks as a top contender for their best sellers. **BELOW:** A combination of beets, beet juice, mangoes and superfoods makes this well-balanced smoothie nutritious.



chocolate without actually having to worry about your weight.

Capping the meal is the Mango Beet Smoothie. A combination of beets, beet juice, mangoes and superfoods (hemp protein, bee pollen and cocoa nibs), this well-balanced and nutritious smoothie is enough to replace an actual meal.

Hillside's distinctive exterior immediately sets the tone for the place. There's a huge "H" stamped on a wall of lush greens. When asked about the theme of the restaurant, co-owner Noelle Hidalgo says, "I consider our theme light, airy and modern, and not the usual organic restaurant theme, which is rustic with mason jars.

A section of the wall stamped with pineapples, watermelon slices and leaf prints in shades of pinks and reds, according to Noelle is the work of her cousin and partner Alessa Lanot, who does craft workshops. "For the interiors," Noelle says, "We didn't hire an interior designer. With the help of a contractor, we designed the place ourselves."

Hillside Café + Juice Bar is located at 57 Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City, tel. no. 374-1117; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hillsidecafeph/>; Twitter: @hillsidecafeph; Instagram: @hillsidecafeph



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entertaining



A Grand Time, p. 146



ABS-CBN President and CEO Charo Santos-Concio with her sons Francis and Martin, daughter-in-law Carla, and grandchildren Julia and Talia.

A Grand Time

CHARO SANTOS-CONCIO: 'ENTERTAINING IS HOW EVERYONE HAS A GOOD TIME!'

BY LEAH PUYAT / PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO

CHARO SANTOS-CONCIO IS IN LOVE. And it's not with a brand new *teleserye*, or the newest matinee idol in town. Her eyes are sparkling, and there's an audible, unmistakable lilt in her voice when she speaks. The dignified demeanor that has been her trademark persona on the longest running drama show on television, *Maalala Mo Kaya*, just melts and disappears when she speaks of this new love—her granddaughters Julia, all of three years old, and her little sister Talia, just two years old.

With a smile that is both proud and pleased, she reveals, "I have two sons, so all the things I never got to do with them, I do now! Even buying ribbons and headbands, I

realized that it's so much fun!" Her daughter-in-law Carla reveals, "Sometimes, they'll be all together blowing bubbles, and you just forget that she's the president of ABS-CBN, she's just having fun with them. And they really try to be like her. Even when they're just at home, they are wearing pearls, just like her!"

But Charo is not a completely indulgent grandmother. She admits that she has to psych them when she reminds them of proper manners. She chides them, but in an encouraging way, that to be a princess means to stand up straight and sit properly, knees together. For this pastel-perfect tea, in their color-coordinated looks, Julia and Talia are chatty and friendly, but they do have lovely







ABOVE: The lanai at Charo Santos-Concio's home was designed to be spacious, to accommodate family gatherings and serve as a perfect venue for entertaining guests. OPPOSITE PAGE: A dessert spread of chocolates, cupcakes from Vanilla Cupcake Bakery and a Tosi cake by Salt bakery are laid before the guests. Burlap table runners spell a casual vibe, complemented with embroidered eyelet napkins and silverware.

manners. They wait until after they are told that they can have chocolates and cupcakes to take some goodies. They smile at all the new people and graciously acknowledge the compliments on their dresses and their pretty, pretty curls.

The three pretty ladies feel right at home in a brunch setting photo shoot of *Working Mom*, a sister publication of **Metro Home & Entertaining**; the pictorial was styled by **Metro Home & Entertaining** editors Barbie Pardo-Tiangco and Anna M. Rosete.

Charo reveals that she takes after her mother when it comes to entertaining. "She loved to entertain, and she was always so detailed and in control," she reminisces. "It's not even the food or the decorations that make a party, it's how everyone has a good time. When we get together, I am open to them. I never think, I am the mother, or I am the grandmother; everything just has to flow

freely. I see them for who they are."

Her sons Martin and Francis concede that their mom seems to be having more fun as a grandmother than a mother. Though both sons do have an interest in media, their conversations are not necessarily the same. Martin tends to discuss more technical aspects of production while Francis loves to keep his mom updated on the latest shows and movies. They do both love to discuss their mom's work and have a passion for television and the cinema.

On most days, Charo Santos-Concio juggles meetings, tapings, live shows and all the myriad obligations that come with being a network executive and television personality. But when she is with her family, all those trappings fall by the wayside, and she is a devoted wife, doting mother and absolutely besotted grandmother. It seems to be the role she relishes the most. ■



LEFT: Famous for her revolving restaurant and for being Pope Francis' chef when he was in Manila, Chef Jessie gives tips and recipe recommendations for a family brunch.



The best of brunch

CHEF AND RESTAURATEUR JESSIE SINCIOCO SHARES RECIPES AND TIPS FOR A GROUP GET-TOGETHER

BY TESS RAYMUNDO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAR CONCENGCO

CHEF JESSIE SINCIOCO, owner of restaurants Chef Jessie at Rockwell, Top of the Citi by Chef Jessie and the 100 revolving restaurant, gives her tips on serving a great brunch for a group. She answers these questions from **METRO HOME**:

What types of food should one prepare for a group brunch?

A good brunch includes dishes that both adults and kids will like. It is good to offer something healthy and delicious for adults like a Salmon Nicoise Salad, and something with cheese, eggs and milk that kids will eat like a Spinach, Cheese and Mushroom Quiche dish. You must also serve a chicken dish like Chicken Chimichurri, since chicken is certainly a dish that appeals to all ages.

What table setting would you suggest?

To have a vibrant brunch setting, it is always nice to put flowers like spring flowers and tulips in nice pots or vases on the table. The various colors of the flowers will enhance the ambience.

What are the must-have dishes?

The must-have dishes for brunch include egg dishes such as ham and cheese omelet, which kids and adults like. It is also good to offer minute steak, crispy bacon, sausages, pancakes and assorted bread with selection of jam, butter and special dip. There should also be some desserts in the spread for the brunch such as fresh fruits and mini cupcakes.

What types of drinks should be offered?

It is always good to have fresh juices such as orange, lemonade, strawberry and mango juice for the guests. For adults, it is also nice to offer bubbly drinks like a Mimosa or a Bellini.

What other considerations are important for having a good brunch?

Apart from the food and the table setting, the food presentation is also very important. It is always pleasing to see beautiful colors in the brunch spread. The mixture of orange, green and yellow and other bright colors of the dishes included in the brunch contribute to creating a lively brunch set-up. Using nice plates and serving dishes that are creatively plated also makes a difference. ■





LEFT: Salmon and Nicoise Salad. RIGHT: Cheese-Mushroom Quiche makes a perfect pair for brunch.



Salmon Salad Nicoise

Ingredients:

180 g salmon fillet,
poached and cooled
110 g marble potatoes,
boiled, peeled,
quartered
250 g salad tomatoes,
julienned
35 g red onions, sliced
Salt and pepper to taste

Garnishes:

1 pc hard-boiled
egg, quartered
40 g snow peas,
julienned and
blanched
2 pcs anchovy fillets
80 g assorted lettuce

Vinaigrette Dressing:

75 ml olive oil
25 ml cane vinegar
10 ml white wine
10 ml lemon juice
Salt and pepper to taste

Procedures:

1. Nicely arrange the lettuce in the middle of a plate.
2. In a bowl, toss the potatoes, salmon, tomato and onion.
3. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Nicely pile up the salmon mix onto the lettuce.
5. Garnish with the mange tout, hardboiled egg slices and the anchovy fillet.
6. In a jar, Combine all the ingredients for the dressing and shake vigorously.
7. Apply the dressing before serving.

Cheese-Spinach-Mushroom Quiche

Dough Ingredients:

250 g cake flour, sifted
1 pc whole egg
100 g water
50 g butter
6 g salt

Ingredients for Filling:

2 T olive oil
2 g Garlic, chopped
2 g onion, chopped
50 g spinach
50 g mushroom, sliced
100 g fresh milk
4 pcs whole eggs
100 g Cheddar cheese, grated
nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste

Procedures:

For the Dough:

1. In a bowl, combine the cake flour and salt. cut in butter with a fork until the mixture turns into a coarse meal
2. Add the egg and water.
3. Form the dough into a ball and let rest for a few minutes
4. With a rolling pin, Roll the dough until 3cm thick.
5. Line the bottom and sides of an 8" quiche mould.
6. Bake blind for about 10 minutes. set aside.

For the Filling:

1. Saute the garlic and onion until fragrant; add the spinach and mushrooms.
2. Season with salt and pepper. set aside to cool.
3. In a bowl, mix the milk and eggs.
4. Season with nutmeg, salt and pepper.
5. Fill the crust with the sauteed spinach and mushroom, grated cheese and the milk and egg mixture.
6. Bake the quiche in a pre-heated 300-degree oven for about 25-30 minutes.

A Comfortable and Casual Time

FAMILY FRIENDLY
ENTERTAINING
WITH JG ANDAYA

BY BERNICE PALANCA-GO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAULO VALENZUELA



LEFT: Hostess JG Andaya likes to keep it comfortable for a select number of family and friends. RIGHT: A preference for al fresco entertaining reigns in the Andaya home.



1. HOSTS. Family and close friends. I like to keep it casual. I simply want everyone to feel comfortable, have fun and enjoy the food.

2. VENUE. I like to entertain al fresco, where there is a drink station, coffee station and a dessert bar apart from the main dishes, which provide movement around our home. I can never get used to being served in my home. My husband and I are also partial to dim lighting and candles. They make it cozier.

3. HOME-COOKED MEALS. Everything is cooked at home. Low- and slow-cooking dishes like callos are among the favorites of family and friends. I also make a mean chili!

4. HOME-COOKED ORDERS. On busier days, I order dessert from other home cooks like myself. There are some fantastic bakers down south!

5. TABLE SETTING. I like to keep it short and simple yet beautiful. I've done the tall elaborate table setting, and midway through the evening I found myself taking it apart. It's never a good thing when you can't see the person in front of you. I love using local handcrafted placements. I also try to use the

40-year-old flatware that my mom found in Japan. It was originally divided between her brother and sister, but I traded our wedding flatware as well as a TV to acquire the complete set.

6. FLOWERS. Thanks to the hubby, I get all the roses I want.

7. GIVEAWAYS. I make Bruges Belgian Chocolates. If I don't serve it, I prepare a small sample box of handmade pralines for my guests, especially when I'm trying out new recipes.

8. DRINKS. Having grown up in Texas, freshly brewed sweet tea has become a staple in our household. Our guests usually bring wine, which is served throughout the evening, and the hubby provides beer for the boys. By then end of the evening, with a handful of people left, the hubby brings out our favorite Scotch. I call this 'Table Time.' This is when it becomes more intimate, and the funniest stories come out.

9. MUSIC. The hubby takes care of the music, otherwise it would be classic rock all day and all night. ■



TOP: Hand-embroidered place settings punctuated by vivid colors provide a dainty contrast to the wooden tabletop. LEFT: Andaya is a patron of the "bakers down south." BELOW: Bruges Belgian chocolate giveaways.



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High or Low?

USE CENTERPIECES THAT DON'T BLOCK INTERACTION AT THE DINING TABLE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ARLENE SY

CAT: Why are your brows all furrowed?

MS DEMEANOUR: I've got good news and bad news.

CAT: I can take both.

MS DEMEANOUR: The good news is I can finally repay you for all the gracious entertaining you've shown me because I finally have the guts to throw my own proper dinner party. The bad news is I've got the menu and the guest list done, but my table settings are a bit of a problem.

CAT: I would have thought you would have enjoyed that part the most!

MS DEMEANOUR: Well, you know that I'm a bit of a drama queen, right?

CAT: Politeness prevents me from answering that question.

MS DEMEANOUR: I wanted to go for high and stunning table centerpieces, but friends and family have been telling me that those are not conducive to conversation.

CAT: Towering centerpieces do give a party a wonderful presence and sense of celebration. I suggest that you use slim vases or slim candle holders that will rise about people's heads, so that you can still get that elegant and, in your words, 'dramatic' look, but will not block people's faces from their tablemates.

MS DEMEANOUR: I knew I chose the right friend to be my guest of honor! What would I ever do without you?

CAT: I am sure you would find a way to figure it all out.



Gentle Reminders

1 The suggested maximum height for most centerpieces is 12-14 inches.

2 If you want to have very high arrangements, keep the base slim, so that people can easily converse with each other.

3 Fight the urge to clear your table of the centerpieces! The hosts and the party stylists have worked hard to orchestrate the look of the party, and to just tamper with the table setting is dismissive and inconsiderate.

nesting

Jim and Lydia Paredes celebrated 39 years of marriage last year. Together, they make music and art in the first home they have ever built as a couple, one that is uniquely them.





This two-story home of Jim and Lydia Paredes is made of salvaged materials from a 99-year old *bahay na bato* they found near Laiya, Batangas. The house is also solar-powered so that it does not consume electricity as long as there is daylight.



JUST THE WAY THEY ARE

JIM AND LYDIA
PAREDES'
NEW HOME
EMBODIES THE
VALUES THEY
HOLD DEAR

BY GAY ACE DOMINGO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAR CONCENGCO



During construction, the pieces of salvaged wood were arranged in piles according to width and thickness. They were each examined to determine their use in this new home.



“THIS HOUSE IS LYDIA’S. She did all the work. All I did was pay for it.”

Not a single question had been asked yet and Jim Paredes—father, husband, composer, writer, artist, one-third of the iconic musical trio APO, and master of the house—shares with the **Metro Home** team that their new two-story home is the brainchild of his wife Lydia Mabanta Paredes.

The home is cozy, made of mostly recycled glass, steel and wood. Beside it is a small *bahay kubo*, also made of recycled wood that was built especially for the couple’s ten-year-old granddaughter Ananda. The garden has

frog grass, big stones, and plenty of plants and trees. The environment is inspiring and peaceful, ideal for creating a new song, writing an article, or strategizing a plan for nation-building. (All of which, by the way, are endeavors that Jim actively pursues.) He says, “At night and even in the daytime, you forget that you are in Quezon City. *Para kang nasa Baguio.*”

Empty nest

The new abode is at the back of the main house that Jim and Lydia bought sometime in 1986, after the EDSA People Power Revolu-

tion. The main house is in a subdivision in Quezon City; it is where their children Erica, Ala and Mio grew up in. The kids have since moved out. Jim prefers to make Manila his home base while Lydia shuttles back and forth from Manila to Sydney.

Over the last couple of years, Lydia would return to Manila and become affected by how much their 30-plus year-old home has changed. She says, “The place just became sad. Every time I would come home I would tell Jim, ‘We should renovate this place. It was getting depressing already.’”

Jim was hesitant. He was concerned



The long table that comfortably sits 20 people is also made from salvaged wood. Carpenters assembled it right in the back yard. The dining area is one of Jim's favorite places. He says, "I love it! I actually enjoy eating in this long table *na ako lang mag-isa. Kahit wala akong kausap*, I enjoy the food... I don't know if that's strange to you."

about the logistics of embarking on such a big endeavor, not to mention putting up with major inconveniences. "He had questions," Lydia says of her husband. "Like 'How long would it take? Where would we stay? What about the dust flying about?' I told him, 'We can rent out. But he said, 'I don't want to spend.' I said, 'We can stay downstairs while the carpenters fix the upstairs.' But he replied, 'But I don't like the dust...'"

A solution was reached when their architects, husband-and-wife Edwin and Divina Mallari, broached the idea of putting up a new structure on the site of the studio-



A pair of armchairs with colorful upholstery is just a few of the new pieces that were bought for this house.



cum-office located behind the main house. Lydia says, “Our architects suggested building there since we planned to tear it down anyway.” As such, the dust and debris from construction would be more tolerable.

Something light and airy

The renovation project would also put to good use the salvaged materials from a 99-year-old *bahay na bato* that Jim and Lydia had purchased in 2010. They were driving around Laiya, Batangas when they saw the old house which they learned was going to be demolished to make way for a modern cement building. The couple bought the house with the intention of using its old wood for a rest house they were going to build in Quezon Province. Later on, they decided to utilize the materials for their home in the city.

The project was supposed to be simple. “Just one room with a little kitchen,” states Lydia, who collaborated with Architects Edwin and Divina during the construction phase. The task was right up Lydia’s alley, so to speak. An artist herself, Lydia took up fine arts at the University of the Philippines, she paints and does pottery. She obviously takes after her mom, the late Alice Ysip Mabanta, who was a watercolor painter.

Lydia was clear about what she wanted. “I wanted a local house,” she relates. “But I didn’t want an old Filipino house *na naka-katakot*. I wanted something that has a touch of Filipino but is light and airy.”

It’s got to be ‘us’

She made it a point to show the blueprints to Jim, who would usually nod his head and say “okay.” She explains, “He’s like

that. Even if you tell him, ‘This is going to be the wall... This is going to be purple,’ it would not matter because he can’t visualize. He just can’t. Like I can’t understand music. If you tell me to go to the piano and find the middle C, I can’t do it.”

Jim admits that set-up worked fine with him because Lydia would sift through the alternatives and consult him when it was time to make a final decision. “She’s the one who brings the matter to a choice,” he says appreciatively. “She would ask me to choose. I would say, ‘This one is not ‘us,’ so let’s go for the other one because it’s more natural; it’s more ‘us.’”

Asked to elaborate on their taste as a couple, Jim says simply that he and Lydia are not pretentious. “We are not going to put anything (in our home) that we don’t like just because it is expensive *at sasabihin ng tao*,



LEFT: The kitchen was designed with Lydia's fondness of cooking in mind. RIGHT: One of the bathrooms was oriented for maximal exposure to natural light. BELOW RIGHT: The staircase risers act as extra storage and shelving for books, shoes and knick knacks.



The big bed in the bedroom—like most furniture in the house—was from the main house of the Paredes couple. There is another room, a guest bedroom where daughter Erica and granddaughter Ananda stay whenever they come for a visit. “This house has two bedrooms,” says Lydia. “It got a little bigger than we thought it would be. But Jim and I are happy with how it turned out.”





The second floor interiors showcase a playful marriage of wood and colorful glass panels.

‘Wow, *mahal yan!*’ We don’t care for that kind of thing. Whether it is expensive or not, as long as we like it, that’s ‘us.’”

The new home truly exemplifies the values that Lydia and Jim hold dear: country, the environment, and family.

Salvaged wood

Around the house, there are touches of Filipiniana: vintage colored glass, the *ventanilla*, *banig* mats and, of course, the old wood that had been salvaged from the 99-year-old *bahay na bato* in Batangas. The wood was transported from the home of fashion maverick Patis Tesoro in Quezon (where it was stored for safekeeping) to the Paredes’ residence in Quezon City. The supply was more than enough, so much that no pre-cut wood from the hardware store was ever needed.

Lydia relates that the carpenters sorted the old wood by length and thickness. She says, “When it was time to put a little wall, or a post or a door, or a window, the crew and I would look at each other and say, ‘*O, anong kahoy ang gagamitin diyan?*’ And then they would go through the entire pile to find the right one.”

Other times the design would be dictated by what was available. For instance, Lydia saw that there were pieces of carved wood that would look good for the kitchen cabinets so she requested the carpenters to fashion them for the purpose.

“I like using recycled (wood)!” Lydia says. “I don’t have to cut any more trees!”

Lydia was not the only one thrilled with creating something new out of the salvaged wood. Kin Misa, a nephew with a talent for

carving, saw a medium-sized chunk in the pile and immediately told her, “*Tita*, I can make a lamp out of it!” The young man used the wood as the base of the lamp, on which he carved an image of a dragonfly to symbolize Lydia, and a guitar to symbolize Jim. At night, the lamp, together with the LED pin lights in the living room, can be turned on to create a more relaxing ambience. “The lights can be dimmed or brightened,” says Jim. “So it’s a room that adjusts to your mood.”

All the lighting are LED. The couple purposely chose these type of lights for environmental reasons. “We don’t use regular bulbs anymore,” says Jim. “LED is more expensive but they last longer and they save you money on electricity in the long run.”

The biggest energy-saving feature in the home is a solar-power device that “harvests”



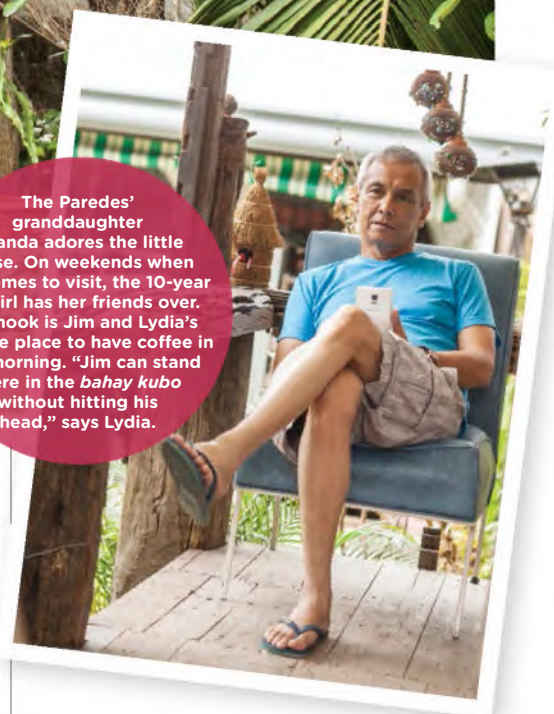
ABOVE: An Ah-Tay bed fittingly holds court in the guest bedroom. BELOW LEFT: A cozy nook in which to read and watch TV exhibits a stellar collection of filigreed antique wood transoms, which have been cleverly repurposed as panel details for this area. BELOW RIGHT: Imprinted on the pillows are the faces of the Paredes family donning Filipiniana attire. Lydia found a supplier in the province and had these made for them.



Lydia told their architects, UP-educated Edwin and Divina Mallari, that she wanted a *bahay kubo* built for her granddaughter Ananda. She had specific requests about it: (1) That it be entirely built from the salvaged wood. (2) That it be adult-sized.



The Paredes' granddaughter Ananda adores the little house. On weekends when she comes to visit, the 10-year old girl has her friends over. The nook is Jim and Lydia's favorite place to have coffee in the morning. "Jim can stand there in the *bahay kubo* without hitting his head," says Lydia.



sunlight to run the appliances during the daytime. "That is my contribution in the design of the house. It was I who pushed for that," says Jim. The couple's home in Sydney also runs on solar power. He says "I saw how effective solar power is in Australia. *Nakakabawas talaga sa kuryente.*"

To prove his point, Jim cites that the electric consumption of the main house (which doesn't have solar power), which is occupied by their household staff, is much bigger. "In the new house, our Meralco bill is really low. *Malaki na sa amin 'yung P4,700.*"

A lively place

Construction took a while (Lydia couldn't tell exactly how long because she did not keep track of the number of months) before the couple finally moved in June 2014. This home is truly for gatherings. It was like the renovation enlivened the place. Family, relatives and friends have been trooping for meetings, parties and reunions. Jim and Lydia's eldest daughter Erica and granddaughter Ananda are weekly visitors.

Last Christmas was made more special with Ala, Mio and relatives from abroad coming home for a grand family reunion. There were over 80 people crowding and rubbing elbows to eat, chat and enjoy themselves. "Jim comes from a family of ten. I come from a family of ten also. That's a lot of siblings plus spouses plus all of our nephews and nieces, plus *apos!* We're a whole *barangay!*" declares Lydia. "Christmas was really a 'nightmare' but it turned out well. I put the buffet in the kitchen so everyone could sit in the living and dining rooms. When you have family over, you don't have to organize the seating. The guests simply have to make *siksik*, find their space."

Almost a year of living in the home made of old wood, steel and glass, Jim still can't stop talking about what Lydia has done to it. He says, "I tell my wife, 'Every corner here is just so pretty. There's hardly any place that's ordinary. *Parang* you really feel that everything is arranged in a way that matches who we are... The chairs in the garden and in the sala are my favorites. In the morning,

I just stay there, or late at night, I just listen to music and the lights are dim... My gosh, it really feels so great!"

Lydia, however, believes that the home is still a work in progress. At the time of this interview, she was thinking of getting new furniture. "Except for the dining table and the sofas, everything is recycled from the other house. That's why the chairs do not match," she explains.

"It will always be a work in progress with Lydia," Jim says with a bit of amusement. He then smiles brightly and declares contentedly, "*Pero para sa akin, maganda na ito.*" ■



“We are not going to put anything (in our home) that we don’t like just because it is expensive *at sasabihin ng tao*, ‘Wow, mahal yan!’ We don’t care for that kind of thing. Whether it is expensive or not, as long as we like it, that’s ‘us.’”